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Washington



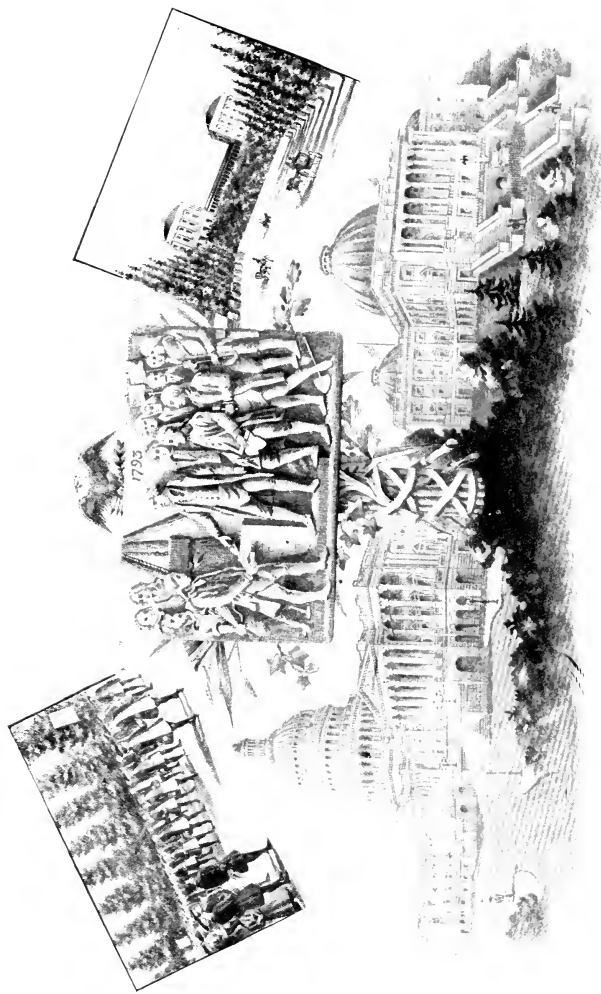
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WASHINGTON LAYING CORNER STONE OF CAPITOL.

Procession.

Capitol as it now appears.

Capitol in 1828-1851.

Capitol in 1814.



HEAD LIGHTS.

No. I.

WASHINGTON.

BY

REV. A. M. BULLOCK, Ph. D.

Author of "MORMONISM AND THE MORMONS,"

"SEARCH LIGHTS," etc.

"The Hero, the Patriot and the Sage."

—*Chief Justice Marshall.*

"The purest figure in history."—*Gladstone.*

"Virtue and vice cannot be allied."—*Washington.*

"America furnished the character of Washington, and if she had done nothing more, she would deserve the respect of mankind."—*Webster.*

"I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely an action the motive of which may not be subjected to a double interpretation. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent."—*Washington.*

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George M. Steel, D. D., LL. D. W. F. Warren, S. T. D., LL. D.

To my beloved Teachers, the eminent William F. Warren and George M. Steele,—and others who have impressed themselves upon my life, thought and work, this book is affectionately dedicated by the author.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

Standing in the marble room at the Capitol in Washington, one may see an almost endless number of images, reflected from one mirror to another; each reproduction losing nothing in detail or clearness by this long procession on either side. In like manner, standing at the opening of the last century of our national life, one may see a long procession of events bearing the impress of Washington, his work and character reflected forward in the marvelous events of the century. These have called forth, during the century, numerous volumes and character sketches touching upon the life of this remarkable man. The facts and characteristics which make up the portraiture of character herein presented are to be found somewhere in this long procession of portraitures, in reflective history. The position, the tinting and grouping, the shaping and adjusting in reference to the light of history, and events which bear his impress, will be new; and it is hoped may bring out some of these qualities, traits and characteristics with added clearness so as to add new interest in the study of Washington.

In this portraiture the author would gratefully acknowledge his indebtedness to original documents and to numerous writers, those contemporary with Washington and those of more recent date. Valuable suggestions from personal friends have also been received and are thankfully acknowledged.

A. M. B.



MARBLE ROOM, CAPITOL, WASHINGTON.



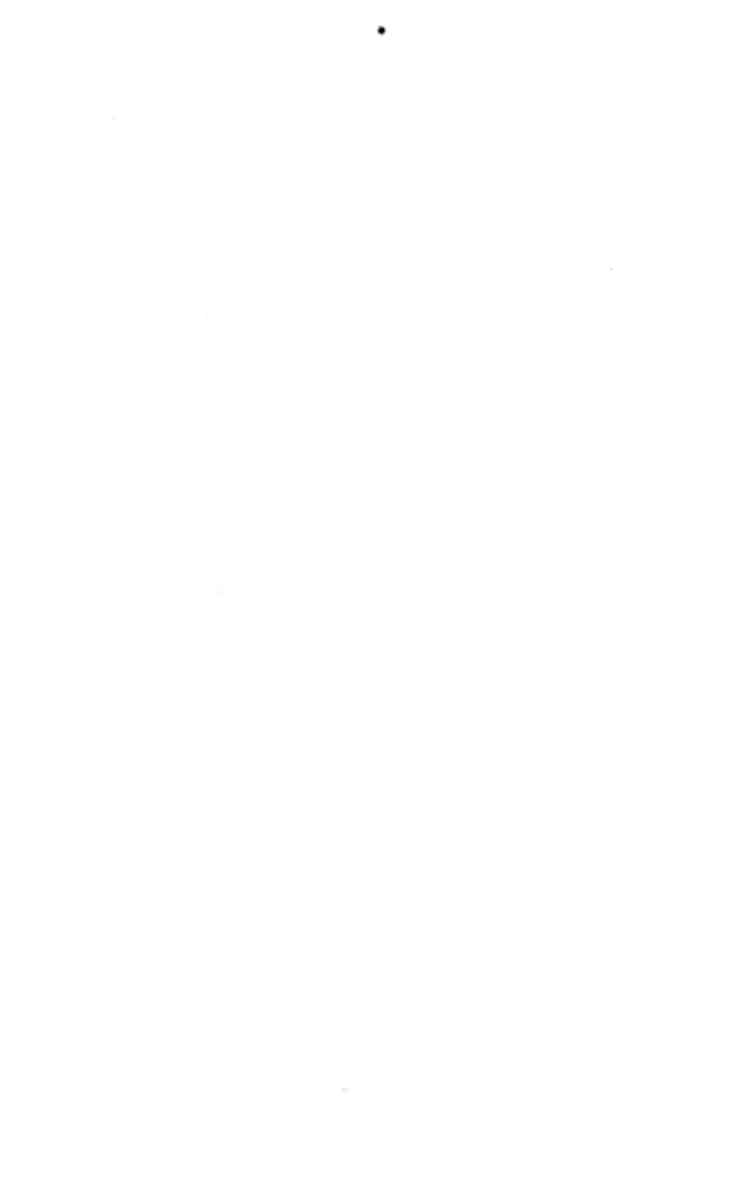
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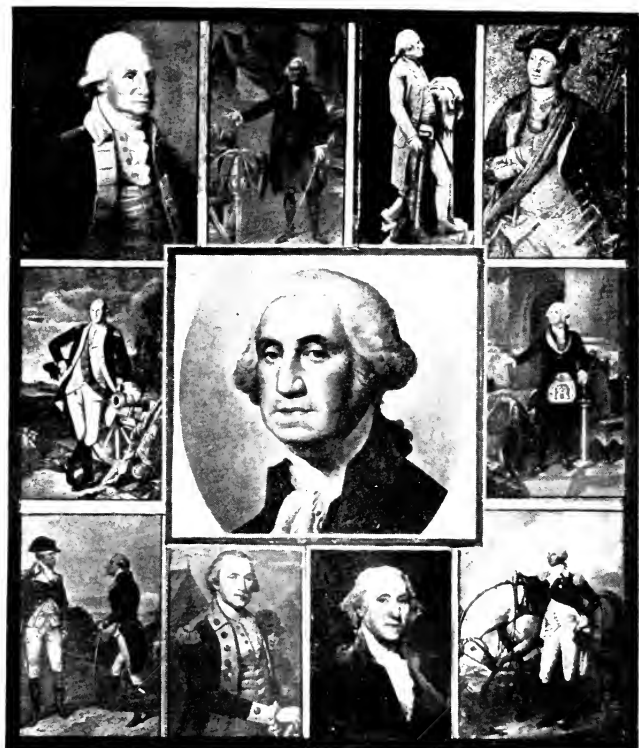
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

“Thank God! the people’s choice was just,
The one man equal to his trust,
Wise beyond lore, and without weakness good,
Calm in the strength of flawless rectitude!

“His rule of justice, order, peace,
Made possible the world’s release;
(Taught prince and serf that power is but a trust,
And rule, alone, which serves the ruled, is just.”
—*Whittier.*

“No nobler figure ever stood in the forefront of a nation’s life. Washington was grave and courteous in address; his manners were simple and unpretending; his silence and the serene calmness of his temper spoke of a perfect self-mastery; but there was little in his outer bearing to reveal the grandeur of soul which lifts his figure, with all the simple majesty of an ancient statue, out of the smaller passions, the meaner impulses of the world around him. It was only as the weary fight went on that the colonists learned, little by little, the greatness of their leader—his clear judgment, his heroic endurance, his silence under difficulties, his calmness in the hour of danger or defeat, the patience with which he waited, the quickness and hardness with which he struck, the lofty and serene sense of duty that never swerved from its task through resentment or jealousy, that never through war or peace felt the touch of a meaner ambition, that knew no aim save that of guarding the freedom of his fellow-countrymen, and no personal longing save that of returning to his own fireside when their freedom was secured. It was almost unconsciously that men learned to cling to Washington with a trust and faith such as few other men have won, and to regard him with a reverence which still hushes us in presence of his memory.”—J. R. GREEN; *History of the English People*.

“When I first read in detail the life of Washington, I was profoundly impressed with the moral elevation and greatness of his character, and I found myself at a loss to name among the statesmen of any age or country many, or possibly any, who could be his rival.”—W. E. GLADSTONE.



GEORGE WASHINGTON.

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Washington's triumphal
march, Trenton.

Leaving Mt. Vernon.

Mordecai's Triumph.

Washington taking oath as
President, Federal Hall, N. Y.

Statue of Washington, front
Subtreasury, N. Y., site of
old Federal Hall.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

In the centuries gone by a king was on his throne, surrounded by all the richness and splendor of an oriental monarch. He called to him his most noble prince and said to him: "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?" The prince replied: "For the man whom the king delighteth to honor, let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head; and let the apparel and the horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honor!"

Then the king said to the prince: "Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and even so do to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken."

What Ahasuerus did for Mordecai, the Jew, who had interposed to save the king's life, that, a hundred years ago and more, the new born nation in America did for Washington, who had led her armies to victory in the great struggle for inde-

pendence. Called forth by the unanimous voice of the nation, he left his quiet home at Mount Vernon for New York, the seat of the Federal Congress.

His journey was almost one continuous triumphal procession; and on the thirtieth day of April, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, amid exultant crowds, on the balcony of old Federal Hall, in Wall street, New York, he took the oath of office and the nation was pleased to honor him with a crown more honorable than that of the Persian king, or the laurel wreath of the ancient Greek, and richer by far than the diamond studded crown of the most honored and exalted nation of modern Europe. "No hero of ancient Rome," says a modern writer, "who, having borne her eagles to victory, returned with her veteran legions to be crowned with laurel by the Senate, ever led up a triumph to the temple of 'Capitolian Jove' as grand as that of Washington during his progress to the seat of government." There, having been elected as the only man perhaps that could have united the different states under constitutional government as they were, he was inaugurated the first President of the infant nation, which was destined to play so important a part in the coming affairs of the world.

The year after his inauguration, and ever since, the anniversary of his birth has been recognized as a national holiday; and everywhere to-day the nation and the world delights to honor the man—

“First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” And wherever the English language is spoken the name of Washington has become a household charm; and amid all the possibilities of the future of our country, I am persuaded that no one will arise to surpass our Washington.

Underestimate of Men.

In our study of Washington and his character, a serious error in the estimate of men should be avoided, an error sometimes so near the truth that the danger is all the more increased, and the injustice done to such men and their work becomes the more serious. I refer to the underestimate of men who have shaped the affairs of society, of nations and of the world in times unlike our own.

Some years ago I was in conversation with a friend in Virginia. He was a man of position and of official standing. I was on my way to Mount Vernon, and chanced to express my veneration for and appreciation of Washington and others of the fathers and heroes of the Revolution. “These men,” said he, “were considered great in their day, but they would not be so considered now. Really they were not strong men. To-day they would be looked upon as very ordinary men.”

I was but a boy then, but the blood of a Revolutionary ancestry almost curdled in my veins. The thought appeared to me to be un-American. It seemed, somehow, inconsistent with the found-

ing and continued existence and the growing power of this the greatest of the nations. A halo of heavenly glory, in my thought, was wreathed around these men which somehow I could not away with. I could not understand how an inferior gem could be polished, and grow in beauty and in appreciated worth, when looked upon from every side, and by the steady gaze of the students of history, and withal win the growing admiration of the world's best critics. As the years have gone by I have weighed the statement again and again and can understand it only as a distorted view of the past and the present, and consequently utterly false. **THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS.**

The century of Washington was the century of Wesley and Edwards and Whitfield and Howard, of Talleyrand and Hastings and Pitt and Burke and Turgot and Fox, of Clive and Joseph the Second of Hungary and Frederick the Great and Marleborough; Napoleon too had become first Consul of France before the close of the century, while Erskine and Brougham and others were well advanced in their ascendancy. The worth and greatness of our fathers, however, did not suffer in comparison with these great men. The most noted and worthy of these even have brought their tributes of honor for Washington and his colleagues as unsurpassed in greatness of character and in achievements wrought. There have been no more honored names, no stronger, no greater men in the history of the world than

these men whose hearts pulsed with the thought, the touch, the taste of liberty. Men who conceived the establishment of this Republic, men who placed their lives in the balances of liberty and upon the altar of sacrifice, men who dared and suffered and fought for our institutions.

A Conventional and False Washington.

In this survey, again, it is fitting for us to face the charge that a conventional and false Washington has been portrayed and held up before the nation and the world; that Washington was falsely known in his own day and is no better known now; and truly known, he would never have been revered as he has been.

Prejudiced investigation, superficial knowledge or observation, vulgar thoughts, impure lives, one or more, have, without doubt, been the background of such accusations. Good men, too, sometimes fail to see the true measure and real character of those who live or have lived amid other conditions and surroundings than their own. Well meaning men sometimes appear incapable of judging men aright, or appreciating their worth from what they do, or the influence they exert upon society, the nation, or the world. Superficial minds are apt to judge others by their own standards, or from their own point of view. There are men, too, who seem never quite so content and happy, as when revelling in filth, and in seeking to drag others down to their own level.

Thomas Paine, (1) who lived, in his later days especially, in a different moral atmosphere, was among the early defamers of Washington, and stands perhaps among the leaders of that class of narrow egotists who have sought to vilify the name and character of Washington. It is true also that men, too dull and sluggish to understand true greatness, eminent ability and genuine character, may, and do, at times, accept the calumnies and base forgeries of intriguing, jealous, self-seeking, little men. that attempt to throw discredit upon genuine worth and merit.

Out of reach of such men and above such aspersions the great Washington rose like a gallant ship on the crest of the advancing wave. He nobly weathered the fearful blasts and the dark and trying storms of his times, and in the memory of an appreciative people and a grateful nation rides majestically forward on the tide of his-

(1) Thos. Paine was not an educated man, but had brilliant talents as a writer. His earlier life was promising. His domestic relations became checkered. He embraced the French socialistic idea of Rousseau. He came from England to America in 1774. He entered with enthusiasm the cause of American independence. His writings in this behalf were terse and effective. His political tractates, "Common Sense" and the "Crisis," were powers in the cause of our Revolution. He went to France and by a mere accident escaped the guillotine, another's cell instead of his being marked by mistake; he was finally liberated through the influence of Monroe. His Deistical work, "Age of Reason," met with disfavor both in Europe and in America. He became intemperate and more and more dissolute. He joined in outbursts of bitterness against Washington. He died in America in the early part of the century, in disrepute.

tory, wafted onward by the praise and admiration and gladsome verdict of the entire world.

Hero-Worship.

In our study of Washington another danger confronts us—a danger which the most ardent admirer of Washington must recognize. People of all ages have been addicted to hero-worship; and we should not forget that the tendency of the world to-day is to deify its great men. A few generations are usually sufficient to present a people's heroes as faultless in character, and stripped almost entirely of the defects and frailties of humanity. So true indeed is this to history, that we find it somewhat difficult, with a hundred years and more between us and Washington, to look upon him as one of ourselves, possessed of the common frailties and faulty actions of humanity. We should avoid possible injustice to ourselves, to the present and to the coming generations, of presenting this great man as occupying a plane of life so far above us as to be faultless and to be seen only in the reflection of the Divine; blighting, thus, the hopes and aspirations of noble souls for true greatness. The fact is Washington was neither more nor less than a man. And only as we look upon him as one of ourselves, surrounded by temptations and possessed of the common frailties and dispositions of humanity, can we fully understand and appreciate his greatness and the nobility of his character. When we study, with careful scrutiny,

his life as seen from the background of human characteristics and minor defects which belong to ourselves, together with the imperfect surroundings and erroneous ideas incident to the eighteenth century, his unswerving integrity, his devotion to principle and his other noble qualities and manly traits appear all the more attractive and noble; and especially so, as we see these natural tendencies and environments surmounted and outgrown, and trace his progress, in habits and in ideals, to loftier standards.

Environments and Influence.

We should bear in mind that Virginia, when Washington was born, was not the Virginia of our day. It was a colony and sparsely settled. The country was new and largely wooded. There was but little travel except on foot, on horseback and on the rivers and other waterways. African slaves and the poor indentured whites were the substratum of society; while the lordly planters, the royal officials and the settled and oftentimes riotous clergy were the aristocracy, the ruling class. Religion, learning, mental and moral development were too often secondary to politics, luxury and society amusements.

Gambling and profanity were common; intemperance was well nigh universal. Lottery, gaming, theater-going and horse-racing were the common practice of the upper classes of society in those days. The lottery, now looked upon as a cunning form of gambling and prohibited by law,

was then a special favorite, and was often used as a means of charity, for the church and for public improvements;—so a hundred years from now the popular gambling of our day in margins, in stock exchange and boards of trade, will, no doubt, have been remanded to the past. Washington's parents were of the lesser gentry and smaller planters. Such were the conditions and surroundings amid which, in the early part of the eighteenth century, Washington was born.

It would have been marvelous indeed had Washington, with his passionate character and common human nature, refrained entirely, in early life, from the local tendencies and customs of the age, together with the views and habits of those he loved and to whom he had a right to look as worthy exemplars, and especially as these things were looked upon by the people at large as proper and unobjectionable. We are warranted to believe that, in his early life, he did not refrain, entirely, from these tendencies, customs and habits. (2) Nothing, I am sure, is to be gained by claiming otherwise. Horace, in one of his epistles, speaks of the necessity of a poet preserving unity and just relations between the different parts of his work; and the lack of it he compares to a painter who produces a work "So that a

(2) "Accepting, unhesitatingly, the amusements, habits and views of those whom he loved best as a child, he discloses the innate strength of his individuality in that he fell into no sloughs of despond, but that in years of discretion all his tendencies were away from his age and towards higher ideals of thought and action."—*Greeley*.

beauteous woman above may foully terminate in a loathsome fish." Somewhat akin to this appears the effort to model after our own times and ideals, the customs and habits of a hundred and fifty years ago; and these too in a wild and sparsely settled colony, together with the surroundings and conditions of those times. Washington, himself, did not claim to be without faults or foibles, (3) and we do not claim it for him. It is our aim to draw a true, accurate and real picture, not an ideal portraiture of perfection. There is but one perfect ideal of humanity, unaffected by birth, time, place and environments, in all history. This One is the spotless Lamb of God. Faults and imperfections, actual or relative, should be allowed their proper place and just value, but not to overshadow and minify the magnificent powers to which they are but incidental. Says an eminent writer: "The sun has

(3) "In 1757, when twenty years of age, he wrote to Gov. Dinwiddie: 'That I have foibles and many of them I shall not deny; I should esteem myself as others would, vain and empty, were I to arrogate to myself perfection.' When informed that anonymous accusations against him had been sent to the President of Congress, he wrote privately to beg that the paper might at once be submitted to the body to which it was addressed, adding these frank and noble words: 'Why should I be exempt from censure, the unfailing lot of an elevated station? Merit and talent which I cannot pretend to rival have ever been subject to it. My heart tells me it has been my unremitting aim to do the best which circumstances would permit; yet I may have been often mistaken in my judgment of means, and may in many instances deserve the imputation of error.' He disclaimed for himself what all the world unites in attributing to him."—*Winthrop*.

its spots. Those whose tastes lead them to look at these through magnifying glasses, must allow us the liberty of rather rejoicing in the light and warmth and bliss which bathes all nature."

Physical and Social Characteristics.

Fortunately we are not dependent upon imagination concerning Washington's physical personality. Contemporary sketches furnish satisfactory data. Because of his high and honorable position in early manhood, no doubt, what might be considered physical defects are usually omitted or toned down, both in portraits and pen pictures. His defective and false teeth, "the disfiguring facial marks from smallpox," which he bore from boyhood to his death, may be cited as instances. He had a magnificent physical form. "His person," says Jefferson, "was fine, his structure exactly what one would wish." He was possessed of great physical strength and personal endurance. In his prime he was six feet two inches or more in height. He was erect, squarely built and weighed from two hundred and ten to two hundred and twenty pounds. His colloquial talents and fluency of speech were not marked except in conversation with intimate friends. He was noble in deportment, agreeable in speech, self-contained and thoughtful in countenance, reserved and dignified in bearing. In person he was impressive and attractive, combining ease, strength and grace. Hiram Powers,

the American sculptor, once said of him: "He had the look and figure of a hero." (4) (5)

He was an athlete of rare proficiency, as evidenced by his jump for a bride, whom having won he turned over to the man she loved; the casting of stones, up the face of the Natural bridge, over the Palisades into the Hudson, across the Rappahannock; wrestling matches, casting of heavy iron bars, and such like feats where others utterly failed. He was an expert horseman, the best, according to Jefferson, of his age, "and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback." He was very fond of the chase; fox hunting in particular appears to have been his favorite sport. He indulged in following the hounds until nearly sixty years of age. Next to

(4) "His skin was clear and colorless; the nose straight; the face long, with high round cheek-bones; the blue-gray and widely separated eyes shadowed by heavy brows; a large mobile mouth, showing teeth somewhat defective; the muscular arms and legs unusually long, and a well-shaped head, gracefully poised on a superb neck. The dark brown hair was worn in a cue, and the small waist well set off by neatly fitting garb."—*George Mercer, friend of Washington.*

(5) "In person Washington was unique, he looked like no one else. To a stature lofty and commanding, he united a form of the manliest proportions, his limbs cast in Nature's finest mould, and a carriage most dignified, graceful and imposing. * * * An officer of the Life Guard has been often heard to observe that the Commander-in-Chief was thought to be the strongest man in the army. * * * His great physical powers were in his limbs; they were long, large and sinewy. His frame was of equal breadth from the shoulders to the hips. * * * It showed an extraordinary development of bone and muscle; his joints were large, as were his feet; and could a

this, horse racing and the theater appear to have been his favorite amusements. As a particular test of the moral character and manhood of a man there is perhaps none better than his attitude toward and treatment of women who came in touch with his life. In this respect we are assured that there is nothing in the letters or writings of Washington which does not accord with uprightness, and which does not attribute to woman the highest possible honor and praise. There appears to be no trace of a word or expressed thought in his writings or correspondence that could bring a blush to a woman's face. It is claimed that though his studies, while in school, were never interrupted by boyish games, his choice of girl companions is known. As he advanced from tender years he was not a recluse. Though naturally diffident and quiet, he moved in the best society of his day; and more than once his heart was captured by ladies of the best Virginia type; and at last he captured "the wealthiest as well as one of the most attractive women in the colonies."

cast have been preserved of his hand, to be exhibited in these degenerate days, it would be said to belong to the being of a fabulous age. * * * His chest, though broad and expansive, was not prominent, but rather hollowed in the center. * * * With all its development of muscular power, the form of Washington had no appearance of bulkiness, and so harmonious were its proportions, that he did not appear so passing tall as his portraits have represented. * * * In the various exhibitions of his great physical powers they were apparently attended by scarcely any effort."—*Recollections, G. W. P. Custis.*

Mental Temperament.

Washington inherited a high and irritable temper, which, on rare occasions, flashed forth like lightning from the gathering storm-cloud. By divine help and severe self-discipline, however, he had so learned to subdue it, and to keep it under control of a calm and cool judgment, that except in a few instances when surprised by the treason, cowardice or misconduct of those on whom he had relied, or gross misrepresentation touching his own motives of integrity, one might have thought he was born with the sweetest and most quiet of dispositions. Green, the English historian, speaking on this line, has said: "His silence and the serene calmness of his temper spoke of perfect self-mastery." Jefferson says: "His temper was naturally irritable and heightened, but reflection and resolution had attained a firm and habitual ascendancy over it." And he adds, "If ever, however, it broke its bounds, he was most tremendous in his wrath." A few instances of the momentary outburst of passion, in his riper years, transient as terrible, it appears, are on record—as when Lee proved the traitor at Monmouth, and when political and scandalous libels were circulated, impugning his motives and representing him as seeking the place and crown of a king. It is no disparagement to Washington that he had strong natural passions. Self conquest is commendable and glorious in proportion to the inherent power controlled. A

violent temper controlled proves the greatness of the ruling virtue, and is evidence conclusive of a strong and worthy character.

Intemperance.

On visiting Mount Vernon, some years ago, attention was drawn, in a novel and ingenious way, to the fact that Washington, in the earlier days at the Mansion, was not altogether averse to the use of some of the milder liquors of those days. Subsequent investigation and study of his life, character and environments have not only confirmed what was then inferred, but have shown his real attitude toward the vital question of intemperance. In his twenties, after having been elected to the House of Burgesses, he did not scruple to furnish the voters who made him a member, cider and rum and small beer and porter. That guests at the Mansion, especially in the earlier years, were often served with wine, and that he himself, after dinner, sometimes took his glass of porter or Madeira, there can be no question. Upon reflection it would have been passing strange had it been otherwise; for in this he allowed what was practically universal at the time. That he did not take the stronger drinks was not because Virginia customs did not warrant it, or that the English in the South thought it beneath their dignity even in those days to get drunk. Here, however, it should be noted that Washington's inherent greatness and strength of character are shown in personal restraint, and in dis-

regarding his environments, rising above the tendencies of his age, to higher and nobler planes of thought and action. He looked upon intemperance as a serious evil; and in the Provincial army, while in command of the Virginia troops, he forbade it by stringent orders, accompanied with severe punishment in case of violation. (6) As Commander-in-Chief of the American army, he was even more stringent and exacting. "Gin shops," he said, "serve to ruin the proprietors and those who make the most frequent application to them." In a letter to his nephew, Bushrod Washington, in January, 1783, he wrote: "Refrain from drink, which is the source of all evil and the ruin of half the workmen of this country." In a letter written during the fourth year of the war, John Bell, of Maryland, says of Washington himself: "He was never known to exceed the bounds of the most rigid temperance."

Gambling, Dueling, &c.

Washington looked upon gambling, profanity, duelling and Sabbath desecration with abhorrence. He not only shunned these practices himself, but openly avowed his opposition to the evils, and urged others to refrain from the same. In his army, his official, his private and domestic life, he was strict in the observance of the Sabbath and religious duties generally. (7). Duel-

(6) Any soldier found drunk shall receive one hundred lashes, without benefit of a court-martial.—*See Army Orders.*

(7) See Army Orders.

ling was popular those days. To challenge another, or to accept the same from another, in case of personal offence or fancied injury, was then considered the part of human dignity, and to refuse was looked upon as dishonorable. No matter what might be the provocation, Washington never challenged or accepted a challenge for a duel, and earnestly dissuaded others from the practice. Profanity and gambling were denounced in the strongest terms, and his official orders prohibiting the same while in command of the Virginia troops and of the American army were most stringent, and penalties for violation of the same severe. (8) In the letter above referred to, to his nephew Bushrod Washington, he writes: "Avoid gaming. This is a vice productive of every possible evil, etc." (9)

Slavery.

Washington was born and grew up with slavery as an inherited institution throughout the colonies; and yet his moral sense, and his foresight as a statesman, repudiated it. He had slaves, but they came to him by inheritance. He early determined that he would neither buy nor sell a slave. While in the army he gave direction that his slaves should not receive corporeal punishment. His will provided that all his slaves

(8) See Army Orders.

(9) It is very evident that Washington did not include, in the idea of gambling, lottery, which in those days was generally looked upon as harmless, though now regarded as one of the most insidious forms of gambling.

should be free at the death of Mrs. Washington, should she outlive him, and that land be set aside for the needy, a provision which was carried into effect one year after his death. In conversation with Mr. Bernard, at Mount Vernon, some months before his death, he said: "Slavery was bequeathed to us by Europeans, and time alone can change it; an event, sir, you may believe me, no man desires more than I do. Not only do I pray for it on the score of human dignity, but I can already foresee that nothing but the rooting out of slavery can perpetuate the existence of the Union, by consolidating it into a common bond of principle." (10)

"The widow Washington's son," as the youthful George was called, had the advantage of

(10) The leading citizens in Virginia at this time as Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Mason, were with Washington in this matter of slavery, in fact the state as such was in favor of emancipation. Virginia had not at this time become the breeding place for the more southern slave market. There was a bitter contest in the Constitutional Convention against slavery. Two of the rice producing states—South Carolina and Georgia—contended for it not on moral grounds, but for utilitarian ends. To save the Union, compromise on the part of the other states seemed necessary. George Mason expressed the general feeling of the convention. He called it "This infernal traffic," and adds: "Slavery discourages arts and manufactures. The poor despise labor when performed by slaves. They prevent the immigration of whites who really strengthen and enrich a country. They produce the most pernicious effects on manners. Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of heaven upon a country. As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects Providence punishes national sins by national calamities."

a country life, with its untainted society, contact with nature, pure air, open sky, mountain scenery, primeval forests, flowing streams, physical exercise and time to read and think.

Mental and Moral Attainments.

He was not a philosopher, or a man of great learning, as the world to-day regards these; and yet he was not a back-woods phenomenon. For years he was under the tutorship of a private teacher on his father's plantation; and for years after his father's death he was placed in school under an accomplished scholar and thorough teacher, under whom he completed his academic course; and later he took a degree, at the age of seventeen, in surveying, at Williams and Mary's. Of this college he was made chancellor in 1788, which position he held until his death. (11) It must be frankly admitted, however, that he was better acquainted with men and things than with books—an acquirement considered most desirable for a Virginia gentleman. His brother Lawrence, who was greatly devoted to him, and who gave to him the Mount Vernon estate, had his training at Oxford, and was a man of accomplishments, influence and sterling character. Lord Fairfax, a man who would have done honor

(11) Washington is sometimes pointed to as an illiterate provincial as evidenced by incorrect spelling, according to our standards. It is well to remember that English gentlemen of those days took more liberties in spelling than is allowable for us with Worcester and Webster and other authorities at our command.—(See also appendix, *E. W. Chafin.*)

to Oxford or Cambridge in those days, and at whose home he was a frequent visitor, was his friend, and proved an effectual helper, guide and tutor. Add to these his own native capabilities and personal inclinations to self-instruction, and we find a young man when twenty-one, of no mean mental acquirements. His letters to Congress, his farewell addresses to his officers and to Congress and other papers show him to have been a far-sighted man and an excellent writer." (12)

He was trained, too, for his noble manhood, marvelous career and exalted position, in that best of all schools, a virtuous Christian home. His father and mother were members of the church and were careful in the details of a Christian life. His mother's ancestry were of the sturdy Covenanters. His father's of the pure Anglo-Saxon line; and, in the early centuries, of the titled class. They were warriors too. Five hundred years before the Revolution, William

(12) We find statements sometimes to the effect that Hamilton had much to do about writing Washington's addresses, especially his farewell address to the American people. In 1811 Prof. McVickar of Columbia College raised this question. A copy of Washington's farewell address was discovered in the handwriting of Hamilton. Prof. McVickar questioned Chief Justice Jay concerning it, and the matter was settled by Jay's statement that the address had been submitted to Hamilton and himself for suggestions and amendments, and not wishing to spoil Washington's fair manuscript their notes were made on a copy written by Hamilton. "My opinion," added Jay, "my dear sir, you shall freely have. I have always thought General Washington competent to write his own addresses."—(*To Judge Peters—See John Jay, p. 359.*)





Washington fought as a knight under Henry III; and John, the grandsire of our country's hero, fought at Naseby against the Lord Protector Cromwell. Morning and evening the entire household was called together for family prayers. From his earliest years he had impressed upon his heart, by one of the noblest of Christian mothers, the importance of religion, the necessity of prayer and of divine guidance in the prosperity and trials of human life. At the home altar and at his mother's knee, he learned to do his duty and leave the consequences with God—a lesson which became the rule of his life. His exalted sense of right and truth and justice, was greater than the social and moral standards of the times, and of the society and circles in which he moved. He refrained from much that seemed to others right and proper. He would not do or tolerate a mean or ignoble act. In his peremptorily resigning the command of the Provincial troops, when lorded over by British rule, his independence and sense of right and justice are clearly seen.

At fourteen he had received a warrant as midshipman in the British navy; at sixteen he entered upon his duties as public surveyor. Here he was thorough and exact and did some of the best work on record. At nineteen he became Major and Adjutant, at twenty Lieutenant-Colonel; the same year he was promoted to the command of the regiment as Colonel. At twenty-four he was one of the best known men in the colonies—popular, trusted and unsullied in character. At twen-

ty-seven he was married and settled down on his estate at Mount Vernon in domestic peace and happiness, the wealthiest man in Virginia; and for fifteen years thereafter he was a leading and influential member of the House of Burgesses. The innate qualities which made him great were all in the boy, the student, the young surveyor, the Indian fighter; the times and exigencies of the country were to develop and call them out.

In speaking of her son, after his election to the Presidency, his mother said: "I am not surprised at what George has done, for he was always a good boy." When he took his seat as a member of the House of Burgesses, the House had ordered a vote of thanks for his distinguished military services to the colony. Mr. Robinson, the speaker, tendered to him the thanks as ordered. Washington arose to reply, trembled, blushed and in his embarrassment could not speak. Mr. Robinson, seeing this, said to him pleasantly: "Mr. Washington, sit down. Your modesty equals your valor, and that surpasses the power of any language I can command." On the floor of the Continental Congress, Patrick Henry said of him: "If you speak of solid information and sound judgment, Colonel Washington is undoubtedly the greatest man on the floor."

The Crisis and the Man.

A mighty crisis in the history of the world is nearing—an Everest peak of elevation which the world has been approaching for ages past, and up



COMMITTEE ON DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
PREPARING THE DOCUMENT.



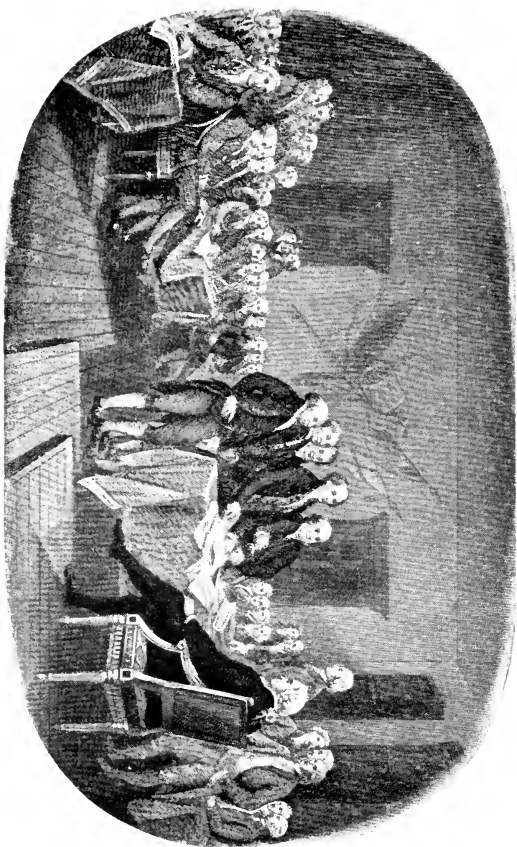
which for a hundred and fifty years, the colonists had been climbing, but which was hidden from mortal view by clouds of strife and overhanging dangers. Wise men and statesmen could trace the zigzag path a ways, but God alone could see above the clouds, and look out upon the Elysian plains towards which the world was tending. Patrick Henry said: "Put a fort on the Mississippi and the St. Lawrence, and you own the continent." Later Jefferson wrote to George Roger Clark: "Complete the fort on the Mississippi river which Governor Henry ordered you to build, for we shall soon have to meet the question of cession of the country west of the Alleghanies, and the experiment we are about to make can only be successful by owning the western country." Washington going over the Blue Ridge and down the Shenandoah Valley and wending his way through the primeval forests, and later projecting the canal which was to join the great waterways of the west and east, and which proved to be the entering wedge of the final union of the colonies, saw a country reaching out its arms beyond that narrow fringe of land and the feeble colonies bordering on the Atlantic, and limited by the Alleghanies;—he saw the western land owned by France and Spain and England, and realized that this was the future America. But these wise men could not fully comprehend the meaning of the western world. God saw as no man could see the rich mines and granaries of wealth which he had been filling and preserving

for future use. He saw the unbroken forests, the broad plains and virgin prairies, the wonderful water-ways of commerce—the very Eden of the world—the land kissed by the tides of two great oceans. God saw above the clouds and beyond the mists, as the wisest statesman could not see, and he planned for the future home of *liberty*.

At this great crisis and this eventful time, God wanted a masterful mind—a peerless man to do his bidding, and to lead the way to victory. He wanted a man when the hour should come, who had impressed his personality upon the country, and who would draw to himself the respect, the confidence and the love of the people; one who would live himself into the hearts of the soldiers and the country he was to save, who would gain the love and admiration of the world, and impress himself upon coming generations as second to none among the world's great leaders. He must needs be a man of heroic endurance, of irreproachable character, singleness of purpose, fearless and vigilant—a true and loyal servant of liberty; one who could endure sufferings and calumnies and impugning of motives when his country required it. A man of positive virtue with high moral courage and with a firm, unfaltering trust in, and reverence for, God. A man with characteristics and abilities so grand and genuine as not to disappoint those who should trust him.

God wanted a masterful strategist; a thorough, careful, determined, dauntless leader. A Fabius

SIGNING THE DECLARATION.





in caution, a Hannibal in prudence, a Scipio in persistence, a Cincinnatus in devotion, a Leonidas in courage; in fortitude, under reverses, a more than Cato; in self-restraint, under calumny and the intrigues of demagogues, a greater than Caesar. A leader like Marlborough, but not for fame or money; a strategist like Napoleon, but incapable of being seduced by the lust of power. He wanted a man confident amid tory sentiments, warring factions and faltering friends of liberty; who could bear with and hold together his army, against the failures of Congress to supply with food, clothing and ammunition the starving, freezing soldiers; one, too, who would patiently endure the falsehoods, slanders and treacherous dealings of incompetent officials, ambitious adventurers and jealous human defamers; a leader who could hold in check a well nigh mutinous army, that through years of dreadful suffering and wonderful fortitude, had achieved victory for their struggling country, though driven to desperation by the heartless intrigues of Congress; a leader, too, who when proffered a crown from these valorous and trusted soldiers, would refuse it with indignation, and burning tears of patriotism; a Commander-in-Chief who was sure to be tested and to meet with discouragements on every hand, but whose courage and invincible patriotism would fringe impending failures and threatening dangers and defeat, with the silver line of victory.

Farther, God wanted a man whose military suc-

cess and statesmanship and force of character would lead up to that still greater triumph, the establishment of the Republic under a constitutional government. He wanted a man who would rise above himself and take counsel of the King of Kings. He wanted a composite, a well rounded man, permeated with moral goodness;—not a man wonderfully brilliant in one faculty and painfully deficient in others, but unique and symmetrical, a harmonious development and marvelous equipose of all his powers and qualities, and great at every point. A man proportionate to the greatness of his work, who could measure up against the great events in which he was to figure, and move with ease among the greatest statesmen of the world, and who was to stand as the synonym of freedom and equal rights in all ages to come. A human Kohinoor to be ground and polished, reflecting worth and beauty from its different facets, points and angles—a gem of priceless value, a thing of beauty, and a work divine, to be set as the gem of gems in the fadeless crown of human liberty.

God plans and works and waits patiently the movements of human progress. The time is at hand; He sees, He selects, He guards the gem destined to ornament the nation and the world. It is in the rough and God alone can understand its value. The master-mind is found, dormant and unconscious, however, of the marvelous future. God places His hand upon the child and leads him in ways best fitted for his future work. The

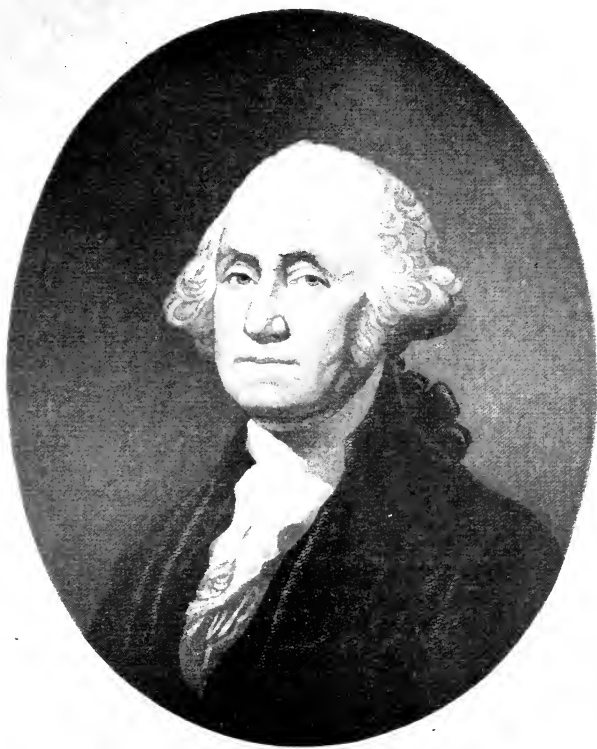
supreme moment comes. The modest, unassuming, tranquil, firm, dignified, far-seeing man is called to lead the armies of the formative nation. He wins in the long and dreadful conflict. The victory of '83 is crowned with still greater victories of '87 and '89—victories which called the colonies together and established our civil government. The victor, by the prestige of his name and work and influence, more than any other means, probably secured the union of the Colonies, established constitutional liberty, founds the Republic and becomes its first ruler by the unanimous vote of his countrymen.

That masterful mind which God wanted was the country lad, the widow's son, the young athlete, the peerless horseman, the youthful lover, the young surveyor, the Provincial colonel, the wealthy planter, the Commander-in-Chief of the American army, the victor at Yorktown, the peerless patriot, the founder of the Republic, the first President of the nation, the great American at whose death a sorrowing nation of freemen is in tears; on whose career and character and life has fallen an after-glow, unclouded, brilliant and beautiful; who stands and must ever stand first on the stage of history, in the alliance of private virtue, moral grandeur, the talents of a general and the qualities of a statesman; who appears as a beacon at the opening of our country's history, and lighting the pathway of our national life, and an inspiration of American citizenship. The man loved and venerated, and looked upon by all

classes in his day as the synonym of freedom and of the life and perpetuity of the nation, OUR IMMORTAL WASHINGTON.

Were we called upon to give evidence of these designs, as suggested, and of the character of the man selected to lead in the bloody conflict for liberty and independence, and to direct in the peerless enterprise for the establishment of a nation, we should point to our country, which to-day stands supreme among the nations, and whose ever brightening glory reflects the heroism, the foresight, the integrity of the man, who, as Bancroft asserts, "Was the nation's architect, and without whom the nation could not have achieved its independence, could not have formed its union, could not have put the Federal government into operation."

In the life-time of Washington there were, as there always are, men of unholy ambitions, party ideas and party jealousies to encounter; but in his presence these shrank back in silence and oft-times in shame. "His opinions," says a worthy cotemporary, "became the opinions of the public body. Every man was pleased with himself when he found that he thought like Washington." As is always the case touching real worth and true merit, there were those who failed to comprehend him and his work, and failing thus, carped at his acts, his life, his thoughts. These sooner or later were shamed into silence. The appreciation has been advancing side by side with American progress. A great chorus of the great





—citizens, patriots, soldiers, statesmen of his own and succeeding generations—trace his thoughts, his life, his outward actions, and sound forth his praise as “Second to none of the master minds of the human race,” and declare with emphasis, that, “In the annals of modern greatness he stands alone; and the noblest names of antiquity lose their luster in his presence.”

One of the marvels of history is the universal popularity accorded to Washington in his private and public life, and the confidence and esteem in which he was held by cotemporaries of all classes and of different nations; loved and idolized by the people at large, respected by his enemies and revered by succeeding generations. The surge of events and the marvelous history of a hundred years and more serve to broaden and to enhance the glory of this great man. Historic clearness seems friendly to his exaltation. His life and character will bear, without detriment, the most thorough examination and the closest scrutiny, in the light of facts. During his active life, private and public, beyond almost any other, he was regarded by those nearest to him, and who knew him best, “With a reverence that often approached to a kind of worship.” With the opening and broadening light of history falling upon the work he did and upon his private and personal and public life, his name and character are becoming more and more the objects of patriotic devotion.

An Outline Picture.

A picture of marvelous import is here impressed upon our thoughts. The aims of God as concerned this western land of ours, and well sustained by developed truths, and facts of history, together with the cardinal characteristics of the man selected to carry out His purpose, form the contour of the picture. This impress upon our thoughts may not suffer because some traits and characteristics, seen in outline, reappear, clothed in the actual facts of history. This may instead, clothe that which might appear ideal with real intensive life, as such it was. This picture is many sided and widely different views are thrown into perspective. Dark scenes, with threatening blackness, like the darkest clouds of nights as seen by the darting lightning which reveals the fury of the storm. Others like the beauteous concave of the heavens, studded with myriad gems of light and touched betimes with the shooting, trembling beauty of the northern lights; others like the full-orbed sun which drives from the sky the scattering clouds, and floods the earth with June-day beauty, with shades and shadows and golden glory which no artist's brush can reproduce, mingling and blending in beauteous harmony, like the gold and silver and crimson, the lights and shades and shadows of a western sunset. It would be well were this picture impressed upon our thoughts, thrown upon canvas, or written down in words, as an inspiration of patriotic thought and impulse. This picture is the noble

but suffering birth and trying childhood of our liberty, the opening grandeur of our country's history, her marvelous growth and her mission in the world. In the opening foreground is the "Father of his country," seen as in dissolving views, with the environments of childhood and youth, a citizen, a warrior, a statesman, and the mellow shades of domestic life, each leaving its impress, enriching beauty and increasing worth, emphasized on every hand by the attestations of his character and service, until it is confidently asserted that "No nobler figure ever stood in the forefront of a nation's life." (13)

But we lay no claims to the talents of an artist, we can only sketch the thought and leave it for hands more skilled, a hand divine, perhaps, to hold it up where the rays of eternal light and truth shall fall upon it, and the love and veneration of a nation and of the world shall tint it with immortal freshness, and impress upon the hearts of recurring generations the work and worth and character of our nation's hero.

Let us trace, a little, that fringe of land on the eastern slope of the Alleghanies, bordering on the Atlantic, and stretching northward from the Carolinas to the St. Lawrence, and mark it as the colonial inheritance of our fathers of our liberty. New York and Boston and Philadelphia, then, were meagre towns and the country back was sparsely settled. A clearing here and there marked the home of the early settlers, and now

(13) J. R. Green—History English People.

and then might be seen a trapper's or a traveler's hut and some small town or hamlet. Primeval forests stretched far and wide, abounding in wild beasts, and intersected by lakes and rivers richly stocked with fish. Thrown back of this and reaching out to the west and south three thousand miles or so, picture to yourselves the wild unbroken forests, the virgin prairies, and mighty rivers, the mountain ranges and scenery unsurpassed in beauty; mines of untold wealth and fields of marvelous richness,—all undiscovered and untraversed, save by wild beasts and the untutored Indians, except in the nearer west where some lone missionary had found his way. Look upon this scene, as now we know it was, but then unseen except by the prophetic eye, and guessed at by the keen-eyed statesman of our earlier times, and make this the distant background of that historic scene where Washington lived and moved and led and conquered and ruled; and retiring to private life wore his laurels and universal praise with the modesty of a saint. Trace then the Virginia colony as it was a hundred and sixty years ago, settled only sparsely, and that too east of the mountains, except an outpost here and there, and make this the foreground of our hero's early life. A series of scenes in which he figures now appears. The child on the banks of the Potomac and the Rappahannock, learning wisdom and the exercise of faith in a Christian home. The fatherless boy, first in all his studies among his mates in school and noted for his strength

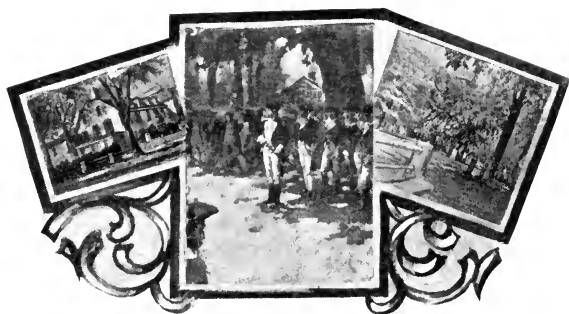
and varied exercise of physical powers. The youth in his brother's home, the companion of cultured and admiring friends. The young surveyor, carrying his compass and stretching his line over hills and through the valleys, and cutting his way through tangled wild-wood. The dangerous journey of hundreds of miles north-westward, through unbroken forests as commissioner to the French. The fearless Aid-de-Camp of General Braddock, Colonel and Commander of the Provincial troops. The ardent lover, who, as a youth, found it more difficult to capture the hearts of maidens than in later years to conquer the armies of a worthy foe;—a lesson which in practical life exemplifies the fact that diffidence and modesty may be in human life like the outward covering of some of the choicest nuts and fruits, calculated to protect the choicest souls until ripened for the Master's use. Prominent in the foreground of this scene, touching the varied phases of that young life which was to play so important a part in the world's history, appears the wealthy planter who for fifteen years holds with increasing honor and importance his place in the House of Burgesses, and is proprietor of Mount Vernon, from which radiates so much of the life and character and domestic joy of Washington. Would that this scene might be pictured in all its varied beauty, touching the outer and inner life of him who stands foremost in our country's history, and that it might be placed as an object lesson for our American youth,

—a lesson of virtue, worth and industry,—the lesson of an unselfish life lived for others and touching the heart of the world and of human kind.

Commander-in-Chief.

There is something of romance but of inspiration withal, to stand on the open plat by the old Elm tree in Cambridge, under which Washington took command of the Army, where, after Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill, was to follow the bloody trail of eight weary, suffering years,—the doorway of a nation which was destined to shape the political history of the world. The news of Lexington and Concord has reached the Continental Congress. (14) Troops are to be raised, an army is to be created, a leader to be selected, and the question is, "Where is the man?" John Adams is on the floor. He describes the situation. The poverty of the Colonies, and the powerful nation to be resisted are shown. He describes the man that is needed, shows the qualities and characteristics of the ideal commander;—then turning suddenly to George Washington, who had been looking and listening intently, he steps forward and lays his hand upon his shoulder, saying:

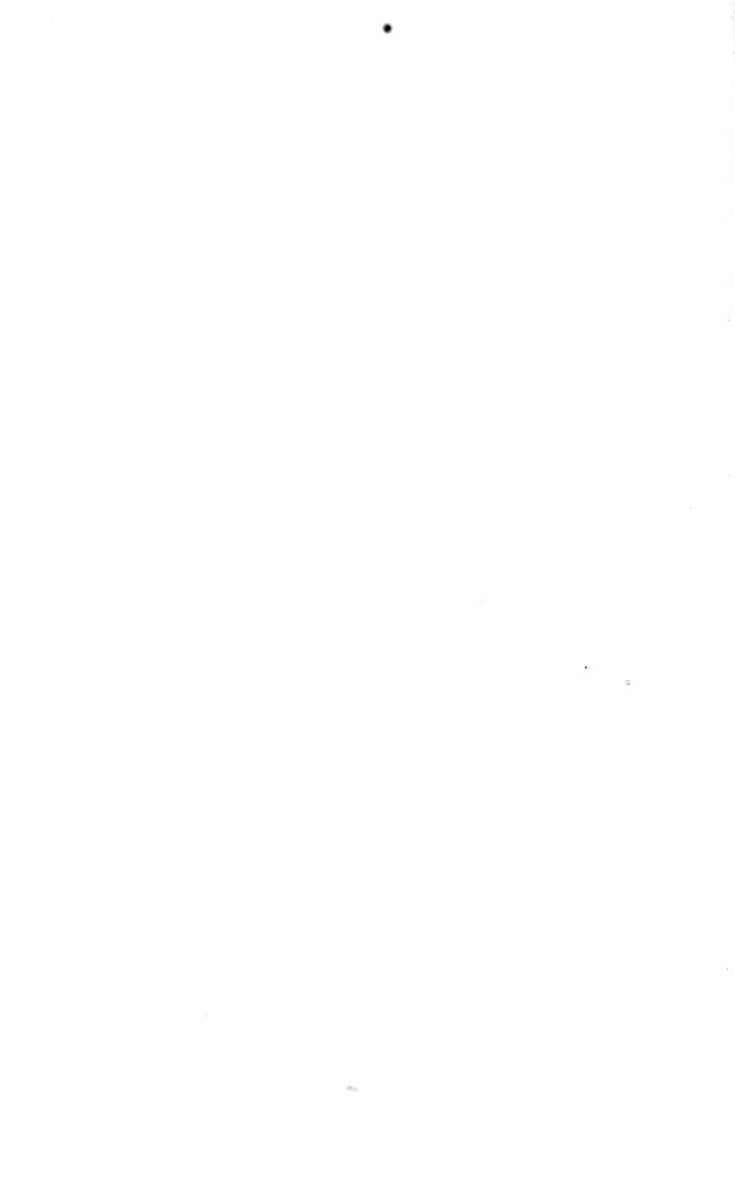
(14) After having been selected as Commander-in-Chief, and when about twenty miles from Philadelphia, on his way to Boston to take command of the army, he was met by a messenger who told him of the battle of Bunker Hill. He asked, "Did the militia fight?" He was told how they fought; he said, "Then the liberties of the country are safe," and rode on.—*Fiske*.

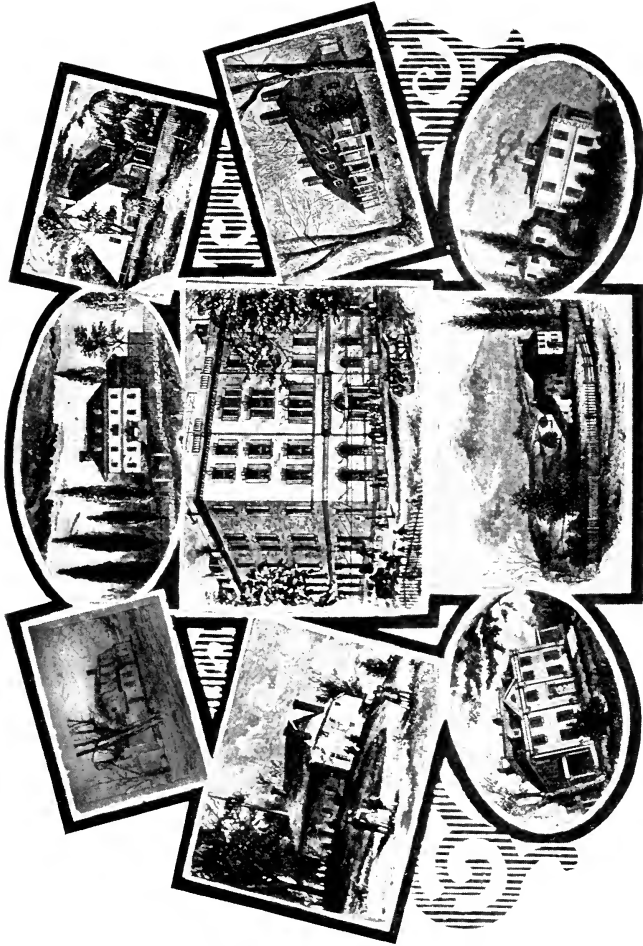


Washington's first Headquarters at Cambridge, Mass.

Elm tree in distance, under which Washington took command.

Washington taking command of the army at Cambridge.





GROUP OF WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

House in which capitulation was signed at Yorktown.

Newburgh.

Morristown.

Frounce's Tavern,

(where Washington bade adieu to his officers.)

Cambridge

Brandywine.

Verplank House,

Fishkill, N. Y.

Morris House, New York.

"And this is the man." After the war as a token of his respect and admiration, Frederick the Great, of Prussia, sent Washington his sword with this compliment: "From the oldest soldier of Europe to the greatest soldier of the world." Between this declaration of Adams and that of Frederick the Great, there is a history which has called forth the admiration of the highest military critics.

New England and New York.

The siege of Boston and its enforced evacuation, and the practical ending of the war in New England; (15) the outgeneraling of the British commander in the campaigns of Long Island, New York, the lower Hudson and New Jersey, even when looked upon in the light of a series of defeats, when the odds were all in favor of the British and against the Americans, are chapters of tragic interest in the story of the Revolution, and have won for Washington strong commendation and enduring fame from men of the highest military genius. A little study will show that New York was then the military center of the United States. If the British could push a wedge through this center, New England would be effectually cut off from coöperation with the more southern states. Washington saw the military importance of this

(15) Nothing struck me so much as General Washington's attacking and giving battle to General Howe's army; to bring an army raised within a year to do this, promised everything.—*Prime Minister Vergennes*.

and determined at all hazards to prevent it. Congress and some of the officials appeared to be blind to the possibility, and to the design and efforts of Washington. But this was the plan of the British minister and for this purpose a three-fold invasion was planned. Burgoyne and St. Ledger were to come down from the north and General Howe was to go up from New York and join them on the Hudson, at Albany, or thereabout. To consummate this plan, however, they had to deal with the genius of Washington. He had planned for the northern army and was diligently watching Howe and his troops. Every effort to ascend the Hudson was foiled, and the surrender of Burgoyne and the victory of Saratoga,—named by Cressey as one of fifteen decisive battles of the world,—were thus made possible. But here we cannot stop to tell the story of our Independence. We can only pause a little at the threshold of a few of the tragic chapters in order that we may the better know the life and character of Washington.

On the Delaware.

It is the dark midnight of the Revolution. The English Commander has been held back, but the cause of liberty lies cold and deathlike on the banks of the Delaware, save alone the Commander and a fragment of the army,—bleeding, freezing, starving,—the forlorn hope of liberty. Because of his apparent victories, General Howe had been made a "Knight Commander of the Bath," and



WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE.

the occasion of his receiving the red ribbon was to be celebrated by Christmas festivities, in New York. Cornwallis had already packed his portmanteaus and was soon to sail for England. (16)

Trenton and Princeton.

There hangs on the walls of many of our homes a picture which represents Washington crossing the Delaware amid the sweeping current and floating ice on the cold Christmas night of 1776. General Howe, who is receiving honors for his "Brilliant successes," is to be disturbed in his reverie of conquest and awakened from the fumes of Christmas festivities; and Cornwallis will need to order back his portmanteaus, and wait a little before he ships for England. It is taken for granted by the British commander that Washington's strength is exhausted and the war virtually ended. But a few American hearts are not despairing; and among these Washington safely stands first. He has the full grasp of the political and the military situation. "At this moment," says Dr. Fiske, "the whole future of America, and of all that America signifies to the world, rested upon this single Titanic will." (17) Under the strain of treachery and defeat, and the full tension of patriotic resolve, the lion in the man is aroused, he is desperately in earnest and his greatness asserts itself. A brief campaign is planned, but one which is to change the tide of the war and attract the attention of the world.

(16) Fiske—Critical period. (17) Fiske, etc.

The army of 6,000 was to cross the Delaware in three divisions and at three different points. It was a dreadful night,—cold, and sleet and driving snow, and the river was full of huge cakes of floating ice. At sunset Washington was at his place of crossing with 2,500 men. The passage was extremely dangerous, so dangerous that the other divisions, though brave and led by men of courage, did not venture to cross. But Washington is not to be foiled. Experienced boatmen, fishermen from Marblehead, ferry across, and without the loss of a man or a cannon, though the crossing required ten hours and more. The landing place was nine miles above the city, and then came the march through sleet and driving snow in two columns. Sullivan sends word to the commander that the ammunition is wet. Word is sent back, "Tell the General to use bayonets, for the town must be taken." (18) As they came in sight of the Hessian tents the sun had already risen and haste was needful. Washington, it is said, rose in his stirrups, waved his sword and said: "There, my brave friends, are the enemies of our country! and now all that I have to ask of you, is to remember what you are about to fight for! March!" (19) All are familiar with the victory at Trenton and the capture of Princeton which, together, ushered in the twilight of the morning. A few days after the capture of Trenton, December 29th, the patriot army again cross-

(18) Lodge, p. 208.

(19) See Alex. Hamilton.

ed the Delaware, where so lately it had captured the Hessian troops. On the second of January it was learned that Cornwallis had hastened from New York and was on his way to Trenton with 8,000 men. Washington sent out scouting parties, to harrass and delay the enemy. These parties accomplished their purpose. They were steadily pressed back, and at nightfall were closely followed. Permit the writer, here, to tell the incident, as his great-grandfather, who was in one of the scouting parties pressed back by the British, has told it: "As we came to the bridge across the river, the Red coats were at our heels. We expected to be captured, supposing that our main army was farther back. As we came upon the bridge it was too dark to see plainly, but we heard a voice, saying: 'File to the right and left, boys, as you come from the bridge.' As soon as I heard the voice I knew it was Washington's and I felt as safe as though I had been in my own home. The cannon were planted in the road commanding the bridge, and as we left and the British came on they were mown again and again." The confidence in, and love of the soldiers for their leader is manifest in this little incident, and in the refrain of Trenton: "The soldiers all love Washington, they all love Washington." The strategy of Washington at Trenton, the night-march to Princeton, the battle there and the hasty retreat of the enemy, are familiar to all. In a short campaign of less than two weeks two decisive victories had been won, 2,000

prisoners taken, and New Jersey practically freed from the invading foe. Before Cornwallis went to bed that night at Trenton, he thought his game secure, and said: "At least we have run down the old Fox and we will bag him in the morning." When the morning came he awoke, and looking across the stream where the American army had been camped the night before, he saw the camping ground, but all was still and the army gone. He heard the booming of cannon on the Princeton road and guessed the meaning. The "Old Fox" had played his game successfully, and Cornwallis could never quite get over it. At the banquet of honor, given by Washington, to the field and staff officers of both armies—an affair before unknown in all military annals—three days after the surrender at Yorktown, in response to the toast, "To the British Army," Cornwallis said: "In my judgment, when history shall transmit for the admiration of all coming ages, the illustrious achievements of your excellency in this protracted struggle, Fame will gather the brightest laurels with which to crown you, rather from the banks of the Delaware than from the shores of the Chesapeake." And again in expressing to Washington "his generous admiration for the wonderful skill which had suddenly hurled an army four hundred miles from the Hudson river to the James with such precision and such deadly effect, 'But for all,' he added, 'your excellency's achievements in New Jersey



VALLEY FORGE.

were such that nothing could surpass them.'” Another military genius in Europe, Frederick the Great, is reported as saying after investigating the battles of Trenton and Princeton: “It was the greatest campaign of the century.” Senator Lodge in his “Story of the Revolution,” has said: “No greater feat can be performed in war than this. That which puts Hannibal at the head of the great commanders was the fact that he won his astounding victories under the same general conditions.” (20)

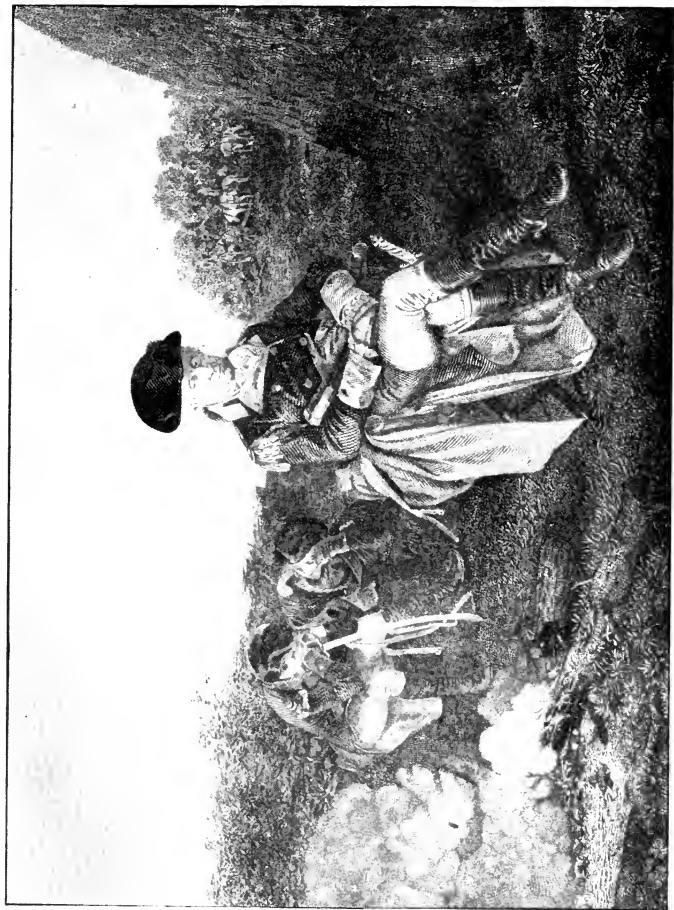
In the most hopeless hour of the Revolution, the genius and audacity of Washington had flashed forth as from a death-threatening cloud, and had given hope to the nation and had attracted the attention of the powers and the military geniuses of Europe. With a dwindling, suffering army, in the very trail of defeat and against overwhelming odds, he had won in two remarkable battles; in fact he had won two campaigns and had completely foiled the enemy, had driven him from the Delaware and compelled him to retire to New York, had then the skill to select a position where he could watch the enemy, but where he could neither be successfully attacked, or without danger be left in the rear.

Valley Forge.

For Washington, personally, Valley Forge marked the darkest period of his life, and here the cause of liberty hung trembling in the bal-

(20) Lodge—Fiske.

ances. We may not picture the sufferings of the army, and the infamous intrigues of congressmen, demagogues and foreign adventurers against the Commander-in-Chief during the dreadful winter of 1777 and 1778. Valley Forge holds a place unique in the history of our country and of the world, for suffering patience, fortitude and unconquerable loyalty and devotion to the cause of liberty. The very name brings a tremor and a shudder to every sensitive soul and friend of justice and human liberty, and also a glow of pride and gratitude for the brave ones who sacrificed and won. No General has ever had more unbounded confidence from his soldiers than Washington. Never have inherent powers, noble qualities and undying loyalty to the cause of freedom shone more conspicuously. General Gates had succeeded in supplanting Schuyler at Saratoga on the very eve of victory; and in the glamour of that victory, which in no sense belonged to him, he was now seeking to supplant Washington himself. But the "Conway Cabal," in which Gates and Conway and Mifflin and Charles Lee, together with certain members of Congress, were the principal actors, has gone down into history as one of the most disgraceful plots in our record. It was too shallow and dastardly to be consummated. While this plot was planning at the seat of Congress, the half-clad soldiers, barefooted and hungry, without blankets or straw between them and the frozen ground, were there on the hill side in the dead of that dreadful winter. Washington



NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE.—MONMOUTH.



WASHINGTON REPRIMANDING GEN'L LEE AT MONMOUTH.

plead with Congress and sought in every way, but long without avail, to relieve the sufferings of his soldiers. He goes out among the trees, beside the camp—Ah! what a picture! Worthy the masterpiece of a master artist—kneels on snow and ice, with mantle wrapped about him, and pleads with God for relief and final victory. Such devotion in such a cause could not fail; it did not fail. Relief comes at last; the intriguers are scattered. The old world was looking on. France, with LaFayette and many others of her noble sons, invites herself to help the struggling child of liberty. The sufferings and experiences of Valley Forge were destined to bring the victories of Monmouth and Yorktown.

Monmouth.

The treacherous conduct of General Charles Lee (21) and the attitude of Washington towards it, will always be associated with the battle of Monmouth. On the morning of the battle, Lee was ordered to open the attack. He made a feint, and then turned his back upon the foe and ordered a retreat. Washington, with the main army, was advancing to the support. LaFayette sends a hasty message to his Chief that his personal presence is needed at once. Washington puts the spur to his horse; he sees the situation—

(21) Lee's treachery was planned with Lord Howe—See communication between Lee and Howe, March 27, 1777. Hidden for eighty years, and found in domestic archives of Sir Henry Starchy, secretary of Howe.—See *Fiske's Revolution*.

sublimely angry, it is said, he meets Lee in retreat, and demands, with the vials of his wrath open, "What is the meaning of all this?" The traitor winces and trembles in his stirrups. The question is repeated, emphasized, it is claimed, with a terrible oath. (22) Lee argues, it was not prudent. "Whatever your opinion," was the reply, "I expected my orders to be obeyed." Washington wheels his horse and like Sheridan at Cedar Creek, gathers the disordered troops and leads them back to victory, while Lee goes back to his court martial, is suspended, and then expelled from the army, retired to private life, dying at last in "a mean public house in Philadelphia, friendless and alone."

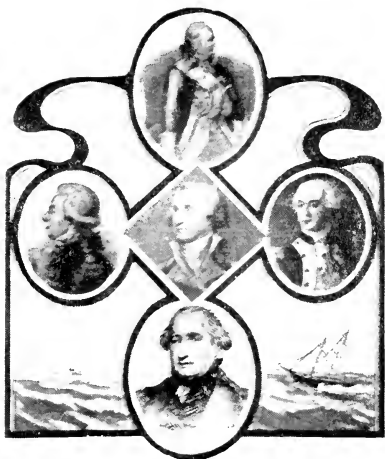
Yorktown.

In the palace of Versailles there is a room devoted to historic paintings representing the victories of France. Among the number is one out-

(22) "It was at Monmouth, and on a day that would have made any man swear. Yes, sir, he swore on that day, until the leaves shook on the trees, charming, delightful; never have I enjoyed such swearing before or since. Sir, on that ever memorable day he swore like an angel from heaven."—*An Officer who was present*. H. p. 215. See also *Fiske's Revolution*, Vol 1, 237-238.

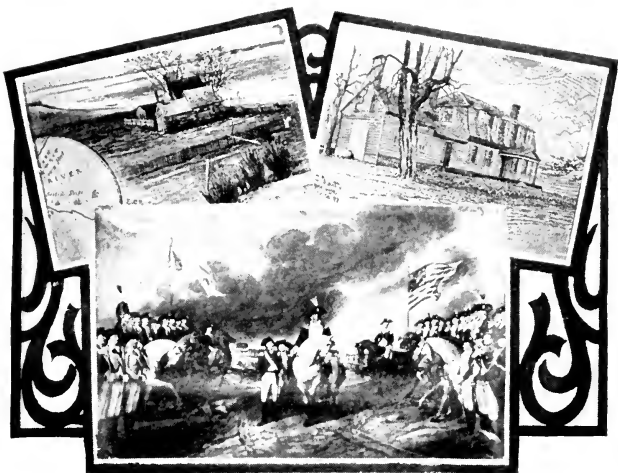
This does not argue in the least that Washington was addicted to profanity. Lawrence Washington and Robert Lewis affirmed that they never heard him swear in their lives. They were his nephews and very intimate.

I was often in Washington's company under very exciting circumstances and never heard him swear or profane the name of God in any way.—*General Porterfield, Brigade Inspector*.



Rochambeau.
Admiral De Grasse. Washington. Lafayette.
Cornwallis.





YORKTOWN.

Section of battlefield and
river.

House in which capitula-
tion was signed.

Surrender of Cornwallis.



lining the battle of Yorktown. In this painting Rochambeau is represented as holding the commanding position, while Washington holds a place subordinate in honor and command. The historians of our country will never forget to honor Rochambeau, St. Simon, and their 7,000 soldiers, Admiral Grasse and his fleets, LaFayette and others of his illustrious countrymen. Without these the story of Yorktown would read far differently from what it does, but in the history of wars and battles in the grand review of national victories, the long procession will always dip the flag of special honor, as Yorktown is approached, to Washington as the hero of the victory. It was his genius that conceived the campaign; it was his skill and military foresight that planned the siege, and led up to the battle; it was he who gathered in the forces and made the surrender imperative. On the fourth anniversary of the surrender of Burgoyne the white flag was raised and Cornwallis, who was no mean or insignificant leader, reluctantly laid down his arms and acknowledged Washington his superior. As the army marched in surrender, the band played an old English melody,—“The World Turned Upside Down.” What more appropriate and significant. It marked a new era in the history of civil governments, of nations and of the world. And in the long procession of honored leaders, who have borne their banners to victory, the nations will always bow in honor and respect to Washington as foremost in the great battle for

political justice, and in the triumph of the intellectual and the moral over physical superiority.

Newburgh.

Newburgh on the Hudson furnishes an incident or portraiture of character in the life of Washington seldom, if ever, approached in the lives of a nation's heroes. Just before, for a few hours, and after the surrender of Yorktown, for the first time in six years, and the only time during his eight and a half years service in the Revolutionary army, he visits his home at Mount Vernon and then goes back northward with his army. He stops at Philadelphia to give information to, and advise with Congress, and then joins his army on the Hudson. Here in the spring of 1783, they had been waiting the slow progress of peace negotiations for more than a year, still under military discipline so as to avoid surprise from the enemy, and to gain the best possible terms of victory. In the month of March, after the long delay, Washington had called together the officers of the army, and while addressing them took from his pocket a pair of spectacles, recently presented to him, and the first he had ever worn in public, and while adjusting them said: "I have grown gray in your service, gentlemen, and now you see I am getting blind." The effect was electrical. The manifest sympathy and love touched every soul. The occasion of this meeting was the just and widespread indignation of the army against Congress



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS—NEWBURGH.



in its failure to do anything to meet the pressing needs of the army. The soldiers poorly clad, with little to eat, without any pay, and without any apparent effort on the part of Congress to provide for these wants, were exasperated almost to frenzy. They looked upon this as largely the result of stolid indifference and unconcern, tinged with jealousy, here and there, toward men who had fought the battles and won the victories. They believed, too, that there was a determination to send them home without pay and without any adequate provision for it in the future, and that their only recompense was to be the memory of their hardships, their services and their victories. There can be little question that there were substantial grounds for their fear and concern. The soldiers and their Commander, however, were quite as determined that redress should be had before the army should be disbanded. To effect this in harmony with the spirit of the cause in which they had been engaged, there was need of extreme caution, wisdom and unselfish loyalty. The disaffection of the army, and plans for redress found expression in various ways. The well known letter of Colonel Nicola, an esteemed officer and friend of Washington, suggesting a kingly crown for the Commander, no doubt voiced the feelings of the army and its leaders. It met with strong rebuke from the Chief, and bitter indignation at the possible thought. Petitions for redress were drawn up and sent to Congress. Letters, hot with feel-

ing, were written to those in authority by Washington in behalf of his suffering soldiers. Finally in the spring of 1783 an anonymous address appeared, able and cleverly written, setting forth the grievances of the army, the indifference of a deteriorated Congress, and the lack of ability in a body of that character, representing 'disunited states, to do what it might wish to do, and suggesting a movement, through the army, for a more stable government, with Washington at the head, and eventually to be king. This address was circulated and a call made for the soldiers to meet and consider the matter. There was but one man who could prevent these words from becoming deeds. Washington's great influence over his army was here exerted in a marvelous manner. To check this movement, which threatened to be most serious, he issued a general order condemning the proceedings suggested and calling the meeting to which we have referred. For presiding officer, Washington had appointed the senior officer, Major General Gates, of the "Conway cabal" notoriety, and in whose office, it is now known, the anonymous address was written, and by one of his aids—Major Armstrong. In his address, Washington appealed to them, if he had not been among the first to concern himself in the interest of their common country; if he had ever been other than a faithful friend to the army; if he had not been a constant companion and witness of their sufferings; if he had not at all times acknowledged

their merits, pleased when praise was extended to them and resenting unwarranted blame bestowed upon them; if so, "It can scarcely be supposed, at this last stage of the war, that I am indifferent to its interests." He censured the anonymous address as unworthy of the cause they represented. He explained to them the difficulties under which Congress was laboring, the lack of power to do what they might wish to do. He appealed to the past of their services and their patriotism, and prayed them to leave the past unsullied, and let the Revolution close in purity. He assured them of his sympathy with their grievances and his earnest support of their just claims, and assured them that he would do all in his power to right them, and expressed his firm belief that these matters would be properly adjusted. In confirmation of this he began to read a letter from one of the members of Congress, but finding it difficult, took out his glasses with the remark noted which touched every heart. He entreated them to submit with confidence to their country's justice. At the close of the address he left the room. A resolution was offered and the measures he advised were unanimously adopted. "We have heard of the triumphs of eloquence," says Mr. Gray, "but when did eloquence ever achieve a victory like this? So complete and unaided a victory over wounded feelings, and natural resentment, and personal interest? Never! A greater than eloquence was here." An illustration of Washington's character, at one of

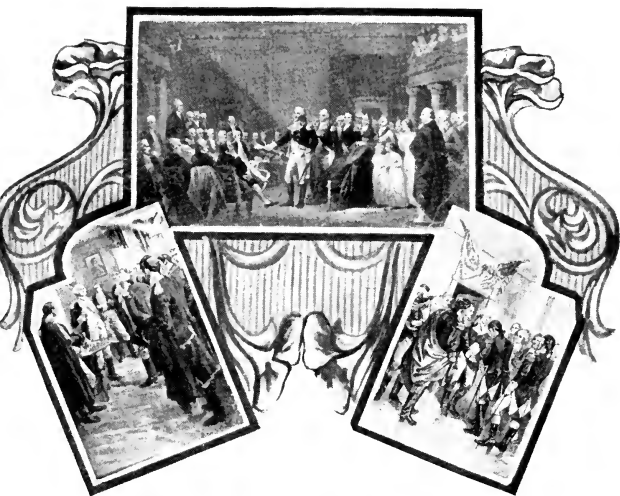
the salient points of its genuine greatness, is here unfolded.

Leave Taking.

The final partings and farwell addresses of Washington have become classics in American history and literature, and will never lose their interest to the American patriot. Great thoughts and leading traits of character are brought before us in these heart-touching scenes, and far-reaching utterances. In his last general orders on the disbanding of his army, at Newburg, (23) the final leave taking of his officers, in New York, a month later, (24) and the formal surrender of his commission to Congress and retirement to private life, there appear the military genius, the dauntless leader, the victorious general—all these but more; here are seen the true and trustworthy friend, the spotless character, the unselfish patriot, the wise, far-seeing statesman. Add to these his brief but immortal speech as president of the Federal convention, gathered to frame our National Constitution, and his farewell address to the American people, and there are added lustre, strength, patriotic devotion and moral grandeur, in the shadow of which we are hushed into something more than admiration.

(23) See some Army Orders—Appendix.

(24) "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take my leave of you, most devoutly wishing that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable. * * I cannot come to each of you and take my leave, but shall be obliged if you will come and take me by the hand."



WASHINGTON'S LEAVE-TAKING.

Resigning of Commission to Congress—Annapolis.

Farewell to his officers.

Parting with officers.





GROUP OF LEADERS IN FEDERAL CONVENTION.

James Madison.

Benjamin Franklin.

John Dickinson.

Robert Morris.

George Washington.

Oliver Elsworth.

Alexander Hamilton.

John Randolph.

Rufus King

Federal Convention.

The convention called together in the summer of 1787 to frame the Federal Constitution was one of the most remarkable and important gatherings known in the history of civil governments. Fifty-five most remarkable men were there to form a government which was to be launched upon the sea of national life—a government toward which all civilized nations have since been moving. The deliberations of this convention, and the events which led up to it—a convention which lasted four months, held in secret conclave, and the deliberations of which, except the results, remained a secret for fifty years and until the last member had gone to his rest in an honored and ripe old age—is well worthy the candid and thorough attention of the student of history.

Washington, through whose efforts and influence, largely, the convention was gathered, and but for whom the Constitution could not have been formulated and adopted, was chosen to preside. His presence, of itself, was a guarantee of moderation, caution and reserve. His well known views of what the nation should be, or should not be, in its general outline, gave a general trend to the instrument; while his words of caution and advice, occasionally offered, seemed to act like magic upon the actions and decisions of the members. It may be well to quote the address above referred to, which “outburst of noble elo-

quence," it is said, "carried conviction to every one." "Rising from his presidential chair, his tall figure drawn up to its full height, he exclaimed in tones, unwontedly solemn, with suppressed emotion: 'It is too probable that no plan we propose will be adopted. Perhaps another dreadful conflict is to be sustained. If to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disapprove, how can we afterwards defend our work? Let us raise a standard to which the wise and the honest can repair; the event is in the hands of God.'"

Plain unpretentious words worthy to be engraven on the forefront of our nation's political history. After four months of deliberation, sharp contention and debate, as now we know—all wisely kept a solemn secret, then and for half a century to come—by men of marked ability and learning, men thoroughly posted in the history of nations, confederate states and federal governments, with questions new and difficult of solution and of vital importance, the constitution was finally framed and approved by the convention and was ready for adoption by the different states. It was not perfect; no one in the Convention considered it so.(25) There were widely differ-

(25) After the Constitution was formulated by the convention, Washington wrote to a friend: "If another Federal Convention is attempted, its members will be more discordant, and will agree upon no general plan. The Constitution is the best that can be obtained at this time. * * * The Constitution or disunion is before us to choose from. If the Constitution is our choice, a constitutional door is open for amendments and they may be adopted in a peaceable manner, without tumult or disorder."

ent opinions as looked upon by the different delegates, and from the standpoint of sectional interests involved; but it was the best, all things considered, that could be enacted with any hope of adoption by the different states. Provision, too, was made for amendments. Looking upon it to-day, with a hundred years and more between, and with its influence upon the world, as looking back over the century, it seems indeed a most extraordinary document. Comparing our Constitution with that of England, Gladstone, who stands and must ever stand in the front rank of English statesmen, has said: "As the British Constitution is the most subtle organism which has proceeded from progressive history, so the American Constitution is the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man." Considering the fact, then, that Washington, through his personal efforts and wonderful influence, made possible the creation of that instrument which launched a new government into national life, a nation which is leading the world, and which means so much to the human race, it is not difficult to believe that "because Washington wanted it so" proved an important and significant factor in the final adoption of the Constitution.

President—Building the Nation.

The young government was born, but it must needs be nourished, protected and cared for, until developed and strong, porportionate to the dan-

gers to be surmounted. There was but one man, as was then, and is now believed, sufficient for the task. To this man of providence the work was committed by the unanimous voice of the people, and marvelously did he succeed during the eight eventful years of his leadership. Through those formative years of the nation's infancy with a wise, firm and fearless hand, he guarded and directed the frail young life, regardless of himself or of personal interests, of abuse or of intoxicating praise. The outlines, the skeleton of a nation, the raw material of a government, were committed to his care; he left these organized into active life, healthful in growth, and with flattering promise of future vigor and strength, with the impress, too, upon the nation of his own marvelous foresight, wisdom and majestic character. There are certain gems of great value, the worth of which is dependent, largely, upon the composite whole; these have various faces, forms and angles, and every part is of almost priceless value, and beyond compare, in its peculiar beauty. Turn these faces, points and angles to the sun and one appears more costly than another, though but a part of one united whole. The service rendered by Washington, as President of the new Republic, if comparison were to be allowed, was greater, or of a higher type and farther reaching than the victories in the field. It was the reconciliation of conflicting interests of separate states and binding them together into indissoluble union, the establish-



Federal Hall, N. Y. John Jay. Washington. Independence Hall,
Alexander Hamilton. Thos. Jefferson. Philadelphia.

ing of a nation, marvelous in resources and almost limitless in its power and destined to influence the actions and modify the political characteristics of the nations. Here a scene appears to me, as though it were from a single sitting, but in reality extending through months and years—would that it might be pictured in its clear and truthful light. To me it appears a key to the success of Washington in this higher sphere, where he stands acknowledged to be one of the loftiest characters and one of the greatest statesmen of the world. None but a man of superlative worth, strength and wisdom ventures to choose as his advisors, in positions of great trust, men such as he selected; men who must stand in the coming history of the land, as now they stand, constructive and creative geniuses, foremost thinkers of the age—men of magnificent thought and mental grasp. Jefferson was chosen as pre-eminent in fitness to hold in rightful relations, to the young Republic, foreign powers; Hamilton to rescue a bankrupt government, and make her honored among the nations of the world, and marvelously beyond all expectations was it accomplished; while Jay was selected as head of the judicial department. Jefferson was an extremest in his views of the rights of individual states; Hamilton in his views of a central government. It is not our purpose here to compare the merits of the political views held by these two men, or to trace their branching theories. Both were giants in intellect, and mas-

ters in statesmanship—Jefferson a “profoundly influential statesman in the realm of ideas,” Hamilton like Ceasar or Cromwell or Burke, “in the realm of facts and ideas.” Men will always differ as to which was the greater. Talleyrand has said: “I have met the great men of Europe, Bonaparte and Pitt and Fox, but the greatest of these is Hamilton.” Others thought the same of Jefferson. At opposite poles in their theories of government, they were at constant war with each other from the first; but both have pushed their thoughts and views and lives forward in the principles of our government. Both were right and both were wrong, and both will continue to live so long as our government shall exist. Which has the greatest influence in shaping American history and American institutions may not here be discussed. As to a centralized government, the issues of the war of the Rebellion is in evidence in favor of Hamilton, while Jefferson, notwithstanding his radical views as to the rights of the individual states, showed his warm attachment to the Union in the Louisana purchase; and incidentally his opposition to slavery, which was the occasion or basic cause of the war, was as intense as that of Washington and Hamilton. Washington, however, stands above them both, not indeed in constructive and creative powers, as such, but in judgment, insight, wisdom and in the combined qualities of a statesman. Both, openly and tacitly, acknowledged him as their superior; though each, no doubt, thought him-

self competent to manage the affairs of the state, and that without him things would likely go to ruin. The great statesman does not feel himself independent of others. Washington had not the intellectual polish, or philosophic thought of Jefferson, or Hamilton's creative genius, incision or masterly grasp of fiscal measures, but he had what was essential for a leader, the good sense to know that he needed the counsel of men like these, and the same good sense to choose them. He had a sterling character and a wonderful balance of intellectual powers. He had the capacity to combine and balance the great and essential qualities of his advisors and to utilize them in their environments in the interests of the infant nation and mankind, and the added wisdom to guide the ship of state amid the dangerous shoals and menacing breakers which threatened the course of government. Washington was called to a stupendous work, one of the greatest in the world's history. It had its precedents but not its equal. The new government was to embrace the essentials of two great political theories. These theories were not necessarily antagonistic, but to utilize them they must be harmonized. In the whirl and swirl of events, incident to the birth and growth and nurture of the infant nation, these important and fundamental principles were often hidden behind and underneath distressing feuds, ignoble contentions, threatening entanglements of European politics, national and international problems of grave and weighty interests;

but these frequently did not expose their genesis or indicate their parentage. Careful examination shows that in almost every important measure with which Washington had to deal as executive, contending and apparently antagonistic claims had to be considered. Localism and democracy on the one hand, nationalism and aristocracy on the other, had to be duly weighed and balanced. This was the great central feature of Washington's administration, often obscured and lost to view by surface events and the lack of penetration on the part of the observer. Often did he groan under the burden, and his life was not unfrequently embittered with abuse from those who little comprehended the value of his work, or his worth. These two political theories, which thus far in the history of the nation have never been brought together and fully harmonized, were represented by the two brilliant Secretaries in Washington's cabinet. Hamilton represented Nationalism. Jefferson, who was somewhat tinctured with French idealism, represented Localism. The latter placed his idea of democracy in unnecessary antagonism to Nationalism. "He was," as Prof. Trent asserts, "a cosmopolitan in spite of his localism in matters of detail and his mind, unluckily for us, passed over the middle term, between feudalism and cosmopolitanism, which of course is nationalism." Washington's effort was to bring together these two political theories, harmonize and utilize them, and bring out therefrom a unique and symmetrical form of govern-

ment which should be a blessing to the world and to the race. Washington's experience with Congress during the war led him to favor a strong central government, and the years of the Confederacy confirmed him in this opinion. He and a few far-sighted cotemporary statesmen recognized from the first the national character of our Constitution—now almost universally admitted and evidenced by the outcome of the war of the sixties—in which the French idealism which affected Jefferson and his followers did not play an important part. "He believed in a strong central government," duly limited and tempered with democratic principles. He called these men of genius into his cabinet and sought to harmonize their ideas, but when he could not, and had to decide, it was toward Hamilton and Nationalism.(26) There seems to be a current idea that the work of Washington in his cabinet was principally to manage these men. This view, I am persuaded, is at direct variance with the facts in the case. Washington was the mastermind in the cabinet. He did not cower at their feet nor fear them. He honored and respected them, and prized their talents. He called them to his council that he might use them and their gifts. He sought to harmonize their ideas and utilize their thoughts for the present good and future welfare of the nation over which he was called to rule. This appears to be the great central feature of Wash-

(26) "He was a Federalist and was willing to flatly pronounce himself as such."—*Wilson*, 307.

ington's administration, and these men the great central figures. But this is only the outline. In the background and foreground and on either side the important measures of that administration should be sketched in suitable form and proper characteristics, radiating from the great central principles. The principle of neutrality, taken towards the nation which had so befriended us in our struggle for liberty—a position though seemingly ungenerous, yet which has elicited the praise and admiration of the greatest statesmen of Europe, and even from France herself.(27) The Excise law and the Whisky Rebellion at Pittsburgh, the result of which demonstrated to the lawless that they were dealing with a nation. The tariff measures and the financial ideas which have outlived those times and have become a part and parcel of the monied principles of the nation. The calling to account "Citizen Genet" and his privateering scheme. The compromise which located the National capital and nationalized the war debt, which with far-sighted statesmen cancelled the theory of the congeries of states. Jay's treaty with England, so bitterly fought and concerning which there was so much bad blood shown, though quite unsatisfactory, was the best that could be obtained

(27) The younger Pitt, in indicating the attitude of the English government towards the principles of neutrality, was questioned, on the floor of the House of Commons, what he meant by the principles of neutrality. He replied, and his reply sealed the lips of his opponents, "The principles laid down in the presidency of Washington."

at the time and better than none at all. (28) Let these have their rightful place and character, and be given their proper shading, with the less important measures interspersed, each coming from its proper source and from the figures of the scenes, all too grand and full of meaning, in their gracious and far-reaching benefits for those who stand too near to understand and to see with clearness. Then let the black cloud of abuse appear, rising as it did, until it shadows the entire scene, and burst at last in all its fury. It seems almost incredible; but so it was, and so it is with all great men, at times, that live and work and even die for others. Washington himself was no exception. The unwarranted abuse meted out was at times almost more than he could bear. "The curs of the press," as Professor Trent describes the defamers, as Freneau, Duane and their ilk, "were let loose upon him," and strange to think, Jefferson, even, appears to have countenanced some of these assaults. in his intense antagonism to Hamilton and to his ideas of government. He could not seem to comprehend how Washington could embrace ideas of government different from his own, except for weakness caused by age. But

(28) To Henry Lee. Washington wrote concerning the treaty with Great Britain: *"For the result, as it respects myself, I care not; for I have a consolation within no earthly efforts can deprive me of, and that is that neither ambitious nor interested motives have influenced my conduct. The arrows of malevolence, therefore, however barbed and well-pointed, can never reach the most vulnerable part of me; though, whilst I am up as a mark, they will be continually aimed."* (The men who made the nation—Edwin E. Sparks.)

the cloud-burst spent its fury and is gone. The air is purer, the sky is clearer and the scene more beautiful and significant for the strength and traits of character and marks of statesmanship which might have otherwise escaped the notice of the world. At the end of his administration many of the difficulties with which the government had been beset were surmounted. He saw the young nation at peace with all the world and its growth assured. This was no longer a matter of doubt at home or abroad. He had given his farewell address, that incomparable document, to the American people, refusing longer to remain in office; he retired to private life, loved, honored and respected by the nation and the world and with assured praise of generations yet to come. To his lasting credit, Jefferson has left his meed of praise and prophesy. A sentence only need be quoted, a statement made years after he himself left the Presidency, and near the close of his life: "Washington's fame shall go on increasing until the brightest constellation in yonder heavens shall be called by his name."

Home Life—Character Impress—Genesis of Imperishable Work.

In that great life which has made its impress on the nations and on the hearts of men, another scene confronts us which seems to reflect and shadow forth the man in the very zenith of his greatness, and affords the key which opens the inner door to the supreme secret of that transcen-



INTERIOR OF MOUNT VERNON MANSION, AND RIVER VIEW.

Library.

Nellie Custis Music Room.

Lafayette Room.

Grand Central Hall.

State Dining Room.

Washington's Bedroom,

in which he died.

Martha Washington Bedroom,

in which she died.

Mt. Vernon Mansion,
River View



GEORGE AND MARTHA WASHINGTON GROUP.

At 25.

Widow Custis.

In 1795.

In 1798.

In 1790.

dent personality which reflects its helpful light and charming beauty on every page of our nation's history.

The writer stood one day, at eventide, on the banks of the Pamunky. It was during the dreadful war which decided the unity of our nation, and the fact of a strong central government, instead of a congeries of states. It was historic ground. There rose the great white chimneys of the "White House," relics of army desolation, where was once the home of Mrs. Custis. More than a hundred years before Washington had passed that way. He had won the heart and hand of her who was henceforth to be inseparable from his life; and now he had gone to this her home to take her to his beloved Mount Vernon. This dwelling place on the Potomac is familiar ground. The tourists of our own and other lands go there to come in touch with greatness, or to catch some inspiration from scenes now sad and lonely, but suggestive, and fragrant too with thoughts of what they meant in the home life of him who is sleeping in the marble casket at the tomb, and beside the one whose life had been inseparable from his own. He lives, however, in the hearts of his countrymen, who turn with pride and admiration to his domestic life. Here we may read the genesis, the motives and the innate qualities of the man that have made his life imperishable. Here we find the secret springs of heart and soul which have made his greatness sublime, and which gave form and shape and tint

to all these acts of public life that an admiring world has recognized, and that have caused the great men of the generations since to vie with each other in eulogy and praise; qualities that have given new significance to human greatness. With such greatness the most astute were not familiar. Men stood and wondered, half paralyzed in thought and amazed, then sought a solution. The conclusion guessed at before was reached at Newburgh, when having been proffered a crown by his comrades and faithful soldiers, he spurned the offer, and denounced the suggestion with indignation, and by force of his loyal and unselfish character and wonderful tact, quelled a riotous army and held it to loyalty towards the cause for which they had fought and suffered. He had sacrificed the comforts and enjoyments of home and family and had been fighting, not for a crown, but for liberty and a common country. At Annapolis, when he returned to Congress his commission, "happy in the confirmation of our independence," and, "retiring from the great theater of action," having finished the work as a trust committed to him, he claimed "the indulgence of retiring from the service of his country," and added, "I here offer my commission and take my leave of all the employments of public life." * * * "I resign," he said, "with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence—a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which, however, was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our

cause, the supreme power of the Union and the patronage of heaven." The glorious achievements and victories of the war were duly acknowledged, with gratitude to God and thankfulness to his countrymen. "I consider it my indispensable duty," he said, "to close this last solemn act of my official life by commending the interests of our dear country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the supervision of them to His holy keeping." He seems, in his modesty, to have forgotten the praise meted out to him on every hand, and to have been ignorant, or unmindful at least, that he had become the hero and idol of the people, not attributing to himself merit independent of others and of a higher source. His exhibition of unaffected modesty, genuine simplicity, and the crowning touch of sincere and unselfish patriotism, and due acknowledgment of divine Providence, shamed sneaking calumny into silence and gained the attention of the world. They were but the overflow of that great soul whose motives were not of self, but reached to heaven, cultured and developed in the home life at Mount Vernon. Such self-forgetfulness, with such great deeds accomplished, and such significant powers, seemed to stand alone. Men stopped and wondered, but few could question. Even General Mifflin, who was one of the leaders in the "Conway Cabal" five years before, now president of Congress, said to him on receiving his commission: "You retire from the theater of action with the blessings of your fel-

low citizens; but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command; it will continue to animate the remotest ages." Concerning this sought for retirement from public life, Lord Brougham said of him: "Retiring with the veneration of all parties, of all nations, of all mankind, in order that the rights of men might be conserved, and that his example might not be appealed to by the vulgar." Confirmatory of all the rest, as touching his unselfish motives and righteous ambitions, and most conclusive, stands his work as the first and the greatest President of the nation; his farewell to the American people; (29) and his retirement to private life, a life in itself pure, beautiful and exemplary as a private citizen. These rounded out a life marvelous as it was sublime. Marvelous in that focal power which shed its light and infused its spirit all the way from the Shenandoah, Fort Duquesne and Braddock's field to Trenton, Yorktown and Newburgh on the Hudson, and then, more than others, the means of gathering up the states and fashioning them into a nation which was destined, because of its exalted principles, to lead the nations of the world. Sublime in the reflected brightness of increasing worth and influence thrown back upon the man whose pure life, domestic virtues, lofty motives and high ideals, touched and permeated, and gave direction to his

(29) Alison, the British historian, has pronounced Washington's farewell address "Unequalled by any composition of uninspired wisdom."—*Slaughter*, 28.

magnificent powers and sent them out to deeds sublime, to strike the higher notes of liberty and to make the nation his enduring memorial. Like the rays of the noonday sun, or of the strong search light, which may reach and lighten the darkest places of the earth, the grandest work and effort in the life of Washington never ceased connection with the pure and simple and unselfish heart that pulsed at Mount Vernon and made it what it was and what it is in the thought of the American people. This is the scene which we conceive and which confronts us now, with the Mount Vernon home as the central figure, and the heart of Washington as the focal power, projecting, in its gracious light, deeds great and grand at which the world has wondered; and these interspersed with events which have joined together the more conspicuous acts in one grand whole, all tinted and mellowed by the sweetening influence of religion and domestic love, touched here and there by the social and benevolent influence of "*The Widow's Son*." The background, the colonial "*Hinterland*," rudely scanned by the early missionary, and guessed at by the fathers. This together is a scene worthy to be chiseled or pictured by some Phidias or Raphael, shaded and touched by the hand of the Master artist. Would that it might be pictured for patriotic inspiration and that this great life which stands at the forefront of our history might stand with us and with our children for what it means for manhood and to our nation, as it stood with

Gladstone and other Christian statesmen of the world. "When I first read in detail the life of Washington I was profoundly impressed with the moral elevation and greatness of his character, and I found myself at a loss to name among the statesmen of any age or country many, or possibly any, who could be his rival. * * * If, among all the pedestals supplied by history for public characters of extraordinary nobility and purity, I saw one higher than all the rest, and if I were required at a moment's notice to name the fittest occupant for it, I think my choice at any time during the last forty-five years would have lighted, as it would now alight, upon Washington." (W. E. Gladstone.)

Summary.

Had Washington died at the paternal home on the Rappahannock, or while surveying the estates of Fairfax in the Shenandoah, his name would scarcely have found a place in history. Had he fallen at Great Meadows, where Jumonville was the first victim of that great revolution which began thus between the French and English in the Colonies, but reached out beyond the sea until all the nations of Europe were in commotion, and ended at last on the field of Waterloo, his name would have had only the passing reference of the French commander who was first to fall. Had he died while a member of the House of Burgesses he would have been remembered as scarcely more than the rich planter of Mount Vernon.

Had he died just after the surrender at Yorktown he would have been known chiefly as one of the great generals of history. Had he died after the Federal convention in 1787, he would have been known in the records, in addition to his military fame, as a leader, influential, mainly, because cautious, his wise efforts to secure a substantial government for his country, and as a leader, influential in his confidence on the hearts of the people. It took his Presidency as head of the new government and those eventful years to show his statecraft and wonderful wisdom, as one of the greatest statesmen of the world. It took his final retirement to private life to silence the last criticism of his public life, to give the last touches to his sublime patriotism and to enshrine his memory in never fading freshness as "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Washington was a representative of the aristocratic line; but he was quite a commoner in soul, and thereby a plebeian. In his heart, the principle of freedom and the broad view of equality were so firmly rooted that the force of his name and character were sufficient to unify the Colonies, with the different elements of the North and the South, so as to bring about the Union, and the establishment of the greatest nation in the history of the world. He put himself on a level with the common people and breathed their spirit. He rose like Chimborazo from the lowest plain of human sympathy through all the dif-

ferent grades of being to the highest peak of human grandeur. He gives a lasting refutation to the base and communistic thought that wealth and wealthy men are sure to be oppressive and enemies of the race. His responsibilities were his chief educators, under God; and his inner life took hold upon these with an energy and a tenacity which defied opposition. His deeds were the index of his thoughts and of his inner life. His life was a worthy example for a nation's free-men. He lived for others. He was dignified and reserved, but simple, lowly and modest as a child. He fought for freedom. He governed with equity, and for the interests of the nation. His justice was without reproach and his judgment almost perfect. He could stoop, as he often did, to do the part of the Good Samaritan, while, as a modern writer puts it, "There is no greater story in human history than that of Washington's genius and character, from his beginning at nineteen in Virginia to his attainment, January, 1776, of a place of greatness, forward from which for more than twenty years he was on the top of the world, the greatest figure the English race has produced." "No nobler figure," says Green, the historian, "ever stood in the forefront of a nation's history." In 1797, Thomas Erskine, a noted lawyer, and later Lord Chancellor of England, in writing to Washington, said: "I have a large acquaintance among the most exalted class of men. but you are the only human being for whom I feel an awful reverence." Lord



Barn, Mt. Vernon.

Washington's Tomb.

Old Tomb.

Christ Church,
Alexandria.

Mansion, Mt. Vernon.

Sutter's Tavern in
Georgetown in which
Washington and
Committee met to
plan Capitol City—
1790.

Garden walk and
hedges.

Log hut built by
Washington and in
which he lodged while
surveying for Fairfax
in the Shenandoah
Valley.

Site of home where
Washington was born,
on the Potomac.

House where Wash-
ington was born.

Washington's
Monument.

The mansion from
Alexandria road.



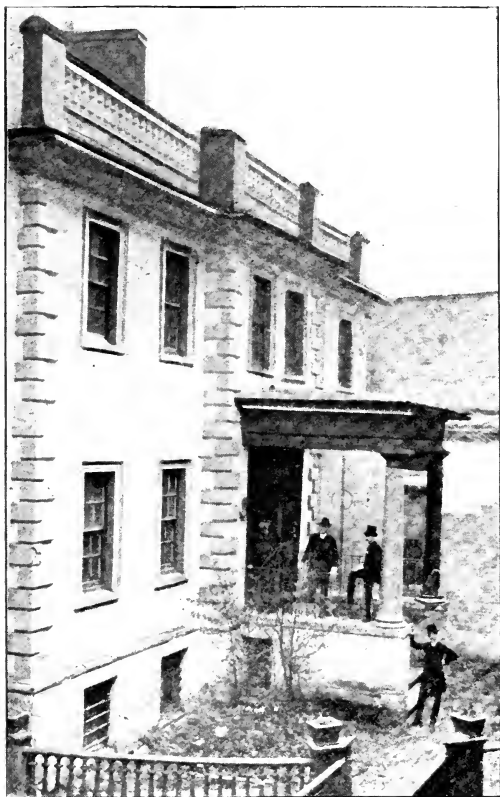
Brougham called him "the greatest of our own or of any age." When Frederick the Great called him "the greatest soldier of the world" and his campaign in New Jersey "the greatest of the century," we may not forget that the century included the illustrious Marlborough as well as Frederick himself.

"Of all great men," says Guizot, "he was the most virtuous and the most fortunate. In this world, God has no higher favor to bestow." Charles James Fox, the great English statesman, has said: "For him it has been reserved to run the race of glory without experiencing the smallest interruption to the brilliancy of his career."

All this and vastly more. But notwithstanding such unparalleled tribute of praise and honor which greeted him from the Old World and from the New, it did not inspire in him any spirit of pride or self worship, for his was the ever brightening glory of a Christian hero, who daily took the word of God as his counsel and acknowledged on bended knee that none but God is great.

L. of C.

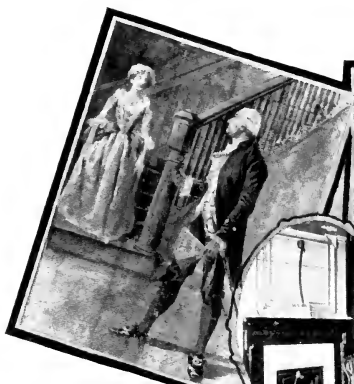




CARLYLE MANSION--ALEXANDRIA.

APPENDIX.





CARLYLE MANSION—SKETCHES.

Washington and Sally Fairfax,
grand niece of Lord Fairfax, at
the San Domingo mahogany
staircase.

Mantel piece in
council room.

Exterior front.

Extended view of porch and
frontage.

APPENDIX.

While in Alexandria, General Braddock had his headquarters in the quaint old mansion familiarly known as the Carlyle House. It is most interesting to go through this building, with its famous wine cellars and underground passage to the river, together with the gardens, and old prison vaults which tell their silent story of the past. This mansion was built by Major John Carlyle before Washington was born—1730. From the porch General Braddock reviewed his soldiers just before he began his march to Fort Duquesne. They were encamped to the westward on Braddock's Heights, known during the Civil war as Fort Ellsworth. In the room in which was the mantel and fire-place here represented, General Braddock held his council of war with the five provincial governors. It was in this room, too, that Washington received his commission as colonel from General Braddock and was appointed his aide-de-camp.

For more than three-quarters of a century this mansion has been hidden from the street by the Braddock house, a large brick hotel used in the War of the Rebellion as United States hospital for Union soldiers. It was in this building that the author's brother was cared for after being wounded at the Second Bull Run battle, and nigh unto death.

Washington was a member, in full communion, of the Protestant Episcopal church. He was one of the founders of the Pohick church, in the Mt. Vernon parish. He was one of the vestrymen of this church and also of others, including Christ church in Alexandria which was built later, and of which he was a regular attendant shortly before and after the Revolution, as also after his retirement from the Presidency.

He was free from bigotry and always "strove," to use his own words, "to prove a faithful and impartial patron of *genuine vital* religion." All Christians honored and revered him. Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, expressed confidence in and admiration for him. Brown University gave him the honorary degree of LL. D. Bishop Asbury and Dr. Coke of the Methodist church visited him in his home at Mount Vernon.

In 1795 a centennial celebration was held in New York to commemorate the treaty between England and the United States and to eulogize Washington for his wisdom and statesmanship in establishing that treaty.

"All his features, he (Mr. Stewart) observed, were indicative of the strongest passions, yet like Socrates, his judgment, and great self-command, has always made him appear a man of different character in the eyes of the world. * * The whole range of history does not present to our view, a character upon which we can dwell with such entire and unmixed admiration. * * He was indeed a man of such rare endowments, and such fortunate temperament, that every action he performed, was alike exempted from the character of vice or weakness. * * All his qualities were so happily blended, and so nicely harmonized, that the result was a perfect whole; the powers of his mind and the dispositions of his heart, were admirably suited to each other. * * It was a higher species of moral beauty. It contained everything great and elevated, but it had no false and tinsel ornament. * * General Washington is not the idol of a day, but the Hero of Ages. * * He had the supreme courage which can act, or forbear to act, as true policy dictates, careless of reproaches of ignorance, either in power or out of power. He knew how to conquer by waiting, in spite of obloquy, for the moment of victory, and he merited true praise by dispensing unmerited censure. * * Glory was but a secondary consideration. * * It is some consolation amidst the violence of ambition, and the criminal thirst of power, of which so many instances occur around us to find a character whom it is honorable to admire and virtuous to imitate. * * His glories were never sullied by those excesses into which the highest qualities are apt to degenerate. With the greatest virtues he was exempt from the corresponding vices. He was a man whom the elements seemed so blended, that nature might have stood up to all the world and owned him as her work. He is bound to no country, and will be confined to no age.—*Lord George Canning, late Prime Minister of England (died 1826.)*

Dignified with no show of ostentation * * * candor, sincerity, affability and simplicity, seem to be striking features of his character.—*John Bell (Maryland, 1784.)*

He was neither ostentatious nor ashamed of his

Christian profession * * His religion became him. He brought it with him into office, and he did not lose it there. He deserved the singular commendation, that instead of being corrupted by success, his virtues always expanded with his fortune: the season of his prosperity was that of his moderation.—*J. Smith, Esq. (Exeter, N. H., Feb. 22, 1800.)*

Like Fabius he was prudent; like Hannibal he was unappalled by difficulties; like Cyrus he conciliated affection; like Simon he was frugal; like Scipio he was chaste; like Philopoemen he was humble; and like Pompey he was successful. If we compare him with the characters of the Sacred Records, he combined the exploits of Moses and Joshua, not only by conducting us safely across the Red Sea and through the wilderness, but by bringing us into the promised land; like David he conquered an insulting Goliath, and rose to the highest honors from a humble station; like Hezekiah he ruled; and like Josiah at his death there is a mourning, etc. The generals whom he opposed wrapped their hilts in black, and stern Cornwallis dropped a tear.—*William Linn, D. D. (New York, Feb. 22, 1800.)*

“Faithful Clio, well mayest thou exult: there has once lived a man, who had power without ambition, glory without arrogance, fame without infatuation; who united the meekness of a Christian, with the influence of a despot: a man whose heart did not sink by misfortune, and whose head became more steady by elevation: a man, who saved a country by his valor, and could receive its praises without assumption.—*George Blake.*

He had religion without austerity; dignity without pride; modesty without diffidence; courage without rashness; politeness without affectation; affability without familiarity. His private life, as well as his public one, will bear the strictest scrutiny.—*David Ramsay, M. D., Jan. 15, 1800.*

He was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life. Pious, just, humane, temperate and sincere; uniform, dignified, and commanding, his example was edifying to all around him, as were the effects of that example lasting. To his equals he was condescending, to his inferiors kind, and to the dear objects of his affections, exemplarily tender. The purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues.—*Gen'l Henry Lee in House of Congress, Dec. 26, 1799.*

"Although his opponents eventually deemed it expedient to vilify his character, that they might diminish his political influence; yet the moment that he retired from public life, they returned to their expressions of veneration and esteem; and after his death, used every endeavor to secure to their party the influence of his name."—*Dr. Aaron Bancroft.*

He is a plain country gentleman, polite and easy of access, and a friend of mankind. I was loth to leave him, for I greatly love and esteem him, and if there was no pride in it I would say, we are surely kindred spirits, formed in the same mould.—*Dr. Coke.*

What a reward for Washington! What an influence is his! and will be! One mind, one will transfused into millions; one character a standard for millions; one life a pattern for all public men, teaching what greatness is, and the pathway to undying fame. * * They recognize him a simple, stainless and robust character, which served with dazzling success the precious cause of human progress through liberty, and so stands, like the summit peak of the Matterhorn, unmatched in all the world.—*Dr. Charles W. Elliott, President Harvard College.*

Washington, himself, was the best type of the citizen soldier the world has ever yet produced.—*General W. T. Sherman.*

He was the incarnation of duty, and he teaches us to-day this great lesson—that those who would associate their names with events that shall outlive a century, can only do so by high consecration to duty.—*President Benjamin Harrison.*

The pre-eminent figure in modern or in ancient history, the world over,—the man who has left the loftiest example of public and private virtue and whose exalted character challenges the admiration and homage of mankind * * * the most famous figure in all merely human history.—*Robert C. Winthrop.*

Mankind perceived some change in their ideas of greatness. * * The splendor of power, and even the name of conqueror, had grown dim in their eyes. * * They knew and felt that the world's wealth, and its empire, too, would be a bribe far beneath his acceptance.—*Fisher Ames.*

His integrity was most pure; his justice the most inflexible I have ever known; no motives of interest or consanguinity, of friendship or hatred, being able to bias his decision. He was indeed in every sense of the word, a wise, a good, and a great man.—*Thomas Jefferson*.

Washington never permitted his public action to be influenced by personal affection or personal hostility.—*Chief Justice Fuller*.

I found him kind and benignant in the domestic circle, revered and beloved by all around him.—*Elkanah Watson* (1785.)

He has acted the conspicuous part on the theater of human affairs, sustained his part with uniform dignity, amidst difficulties of the most discouraging nature, having arrived through them, at the hour of triumph, with glory.—*Jedekiah Morse* (1789.)

Malice could never blast his honor, and envy made him a singular exception to her universal rule. For himself he had lived enough, to life and to glory. For his fellow citizens, if their prayers could have been answered, he would have been immortal.—*John Adams, in address to Congress at death of Washington*.

Dr. Curry, after speaking of his general character and public services, has said: "Back of all this there was beyond any reasonable doubt, in his private and personal character, a purity and an elevation above the meanness that so often disgraces great names, and a loftiness of patriotism that abundantly justifies the admiration that is bestowed upon his name."—*Daniel Curry, D. D.*

Not so abnormally developed in any direction as to be called a genius, yet he was the strongest because the best balanced, the fullest rounded, the most even and most self-masterful of men—the incarnation of common sense and moral purity, of action and repose.—*Chauncey M. Depew*.

He was the first man of the time in which he grew. His memory is first and most sacred in our love; and ever hereafter, till the last drop of blood shall freeze in the last American heart, his name shall be a spell of power and might.—*Rufus Choate*.

This great man fought for liberty. His memory will be forever dear to the friends of freedom in two worlds.—*Napoleon* (Feb. 20, 1800.)

Scipio was continent, Cæsar was merciful, Hannibal was patient; but it was reserved for Washington to blend in one glow of associated beauty the pride of every model and the perfection of every master.—*Phillips, the Irish Orator.*

I have always admired your great virtues and qualities; your disinterested patriotism, your unshaken courage and simplicity of manners,—qualifications by which you surpass men, even the most celebrated of antiquity.—*Count Hertzburg, Prime Minister under Frederick the Great, Berlin.*

Until time shall be no more will a test of the progress which our race has made in wisdom and virtue, be derived from the veneration paid to the immortal name of Washington.—*Lord Brougham.*

You are, in my eyes, the great and good man.—*Thomas Conway (of Conway cabal notoriety when wounded in duel, supposing his own death near.)*

In the early part of the Nineteenth Century a few Americans were in Vienna and united to celebrate the birth of Washington. They invited the Emperor Francis of Austria to honor the occasion with his presence. The emperor thanked them but said: "You must excuse me from uniting with you to honor the memory of your illustrious countryman, since I could not do so with sincerity, for Washington scorned a crown, and did more to bring royalty into contempt, than all men who have ever lived."

In a grand point of character, Washington will ever stand out in history as greater than William the Silent—a greater than almost any statesman in supreme place in the whole record of modern history. His unshaken devotion to the right, his perfect justice, his transparent truthfulness and lofty sense of honor, will ever place him above even the best of modern statesmen. * * * We find Washington even what the Greek philosopher dreamed of, but never found in flesh: "The man who stood four square, upright and without reproach." * * * The consummate sagacity and dominant virtue of Washington united the two parties and saved the young commonwealth from a premature explosion of the struggle which began sixty years after his death. * * * The close of such a career was altogether worthy of the spotless record. To compel his fellow citizens to suffer him to descend from what was a seat of power far above the throne of monarchs, to do this in the maturity of his physical and mental pow-

ers, and solely as a great example to his successors, has given the world a new conception of moral dignity and republican simplicity. * * * The grand endowments of Washington were character, not imagination, judgment not subtlety, wisdom not brilliancy. * * * He lived to see the crown of his work and left it to his country as a stainless record.—*Frederick Harrison*.

Harnack's testimony to Washington was in substance as follows: In his judgment Washington is to be placed above Cromwell, or any great soldier and leader of modern times, since he was not only one of the world's most brilliant military tacticians, but also one of its greatest patriots and most far-seeing and self-sacrificing statesmen. The character of Washington stands out conspicuous for a fine balance of noble qualities and makes him noble in personal life as well as great in action.—(*President Samuel Plantz, L. University.*)

The talents and great actions of General Washington have insured him, in the eyes of all Europe, the title, truly sublime, of "Deliverer of America."—*Count de Estaing*.

He is the foe to ostentation and vain glory. Modest even to humility, he does not seem to estimate himself at his true worth. He receives with perfect grace all the homages that are paid to him, but he evades them rather than seeks them. * * * To an unalterable tranquility of soul he joins a most exact judgment. * * * His courage is calm and brilliant. * * * One cannot fail to give him the title of an excellent patriot, of a wise and virtuous man.—*Prince de Broglie*.

He shows the utmost reserve, and is very diffident, but at the same time he is firm and unchangable in what he undertakes. His modesty must be very astonishing, especially to a Frenchman. He speaks of the American war as if he had not directed it; and of his victories with an indifference which strangers even would not affect.—*John Pierre Brisscot (1791.)*

A character of virtues so happily tempered by one another, and so wholly unalloyed with any vices, as that of Washington, is hardly to be found in the pages of history. * * * Illustrious man, deriving honor, less from the splendor of his situation than from the dignity of his mind; before whom all borrowed greatness sinks into insignificance. I cannot,

indeed, help admiring the wisdom and fortune of this great man.—*Charles James Fox.*

It will always be well with Washington. He is the greatest of men, and he will be venerated by mankind when my fame shall be lost in the vortex of revolutions.—*Napoleon (to an American in the year of Washington's death.)*

Washington did the two greatest things which, in politics, it is permitted man to attempt. He maintained by peace the independence which he conquered by war. And to-day his doctrines have well nigh permanent value for the prosperity of the American nation.—*Guizot.*

He has ever shown himself superior to fortune, and in the most trying adversity has discovered resources till then unknown: and as if his abilities only increased and dilated at the prospect of difficulty, he is never better supplied than when he seems destitute of everything, nor have his arms ever been so fatal to his enemies as at the very instant when they had thought they had crushed him forever. He is intrepid in dangers, yet never seeks them. Like Peter the Great, he has, by defeats, conducted his army to victory, and like Fabius, but with fewer resources and more difficulty, he has conquered without fighting and saved his country.—*Chaplain Abbe Claude Robin.* L

General Washington has left on my mind, the idea of perfect whole. Brave without temerity, laborious without ambition, generous without prodigality, noble without pride, virtuous without severity. This is the seventh year he has commanded the army and obeyed the Congress. More need not be said. * * Let it be repeated, Conde was intrepid, Turenne prudent, Eugene masterly. It is not thus Washington will be characterized. * * It will be said of him, "At the end of a long civil war he had nothing with which he could reproach himself."—*Marquis de Chastellux.*

SOME ARMY ORDERS.

Army order as Commander of Virginia Troops:

"Any soldier who shall presume to quarrel or fight shall receive five hundred lashes, without the benefit of a court-martial. * * Any soldier found drunk shall receive one hundred lashes, without benefit of a court-martial."
(M'G).

As commander of the Virginia troops Washington wrote to Gov. Dinwiddie, April 18th, 1756: "I * * can call my conscience to witness, and what I suppose will be a still more demonstrative proof in the eyes of the world, my orders to witness, how much I have endeavored to discontinue gambling, drinking, swearing and irregularities of every kind."

(M'G).

"The officers are desired, if they hear any man swear, or make use of an oath or execration, to order the offender twenty-five lashes immediately, without a court-martial. For the second offense, they will be more severely punished."—(June, 1756.)

(As early as 1756 while in command of the Virginia troops he forbade gambling and other evil practices under severe penalties.—See above.)

AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN ARMY.

(M'G).

The day following his taking command of the army at Cambridge, as Commander-in-Chief, he issued the following order: The General most earnestly requires and expects a due observance of those articles of war, established for the observance of the army, which forbid profane cursing, swearing and drunkenness. And in like manner, he requires and expects of all officers and soldiers, not engaged on actual duty, a punctual attendance on divine service. * *)

(M'G).

February 26th, 1776: "All officers and non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, are positively forbidden playing at cards and other games of chance. At this time of public distress, men may find enough to do in the service of their God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality."

(M'G).

On May 26th, 1777, instructions to Brigadier-Generals: "Let vice and immorality of every kind be discouraged as much as possible in your brigade. * * See that the men regularly attend divine worship. Gaming of every kind is expressly forbidden, as being the foundation of evil and the cause of many a brave and gallant officer's ruin. Games of exercise for amusement, may not only be permitted, but encouraged."

(M'G).

On the 8th of January, 1778, at Valley Forge, the following order was issued: "The Commander-in-Chief is informed that gaming is again creeping into the army. * * * He, therefore, in the most solemn terms, declares that this vice in either officer or

soldier shall not, when detected, escape exemplary punishment; and to avoid discrimination between play and gaming, forbids cards and dice under any pretence whatsoever."

On August 30th, 1776, the following order: "The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing, * * is growing into fashion; he hopes the officers will, by example as well as influence, endeavor to check it; * * * it is a vice so mean and so low, without any temptation, that every man of sense and character detests and despises it."

FAREWELL ORDER TO THE ARMY AT NEWBURGH.

"* * * It is earnestly recommended to all the troops, that, with strong attachments to the Union, they should carry, with them into civil society the most conciliating dispositions, and that they should prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as citizens than they have been persevering and victorious as soldiers."—(*A selection from.*)

"He laid the foundation of our policy in the unerring principles of morality, based on religion."—*General Harry Lee.*

"Washington served us chiefly by his sublime moral qualities."—*William E. Channing.*

"His noblest victory was the conquest of himself."—*Fitz-Hugh Lee.*

"The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and cherish religion and morality as the firmest props of the duties of men and citizens."—*Washington.*

"Possessing strong natural passions, and having the nicest feelings of honor, he was in early life prone keenly to resent practices which carried the intention of abuse or insult; but the reflections of mature age gave him the most perfect government of himself. * * His actions were not the semblance but the reality of virtue. * * He was as eminent for piety as for patriotism. His public and private conduct evince, that he impressively felt a sense of the superintendence of God and of the dependence of man. * * In principle and practice he was a Christian. * * During the war he not unfrequently rode ten or twelve miles from camp to attend public worship; and he never omitted this attendance, when opportunity presented. In the establishment



GROUP OF CHURCHES WHICH FIGURED IN LIFE OF
WASHINGTON.

Old South Church, Boston.

St. Paul's Church, New York.

Christ Church, Philadelphia.

Christ Church, Alexandria.

Interior Christ Church.

St. Peter's Church in which Washington

and Mrs. Custis were married—

~~Interior Christ Church, Alexandria.~~

Potomack Church.



of his presidential household, he reserved to himself the Sabbath, free from the interruptions of private visits, or public business; and throughout the eight years of his civil administration, he gave to the institutions of Christianity the influence of his example."—*Dr. Aaron Bancroft.*

"Washington was always a strict and decorous observer of the Sabbath. He invariably attended divine service once a day when in reach of a place of worship. * * * On Sunday no visitors were admitted to the President's house save the immediate relatives of the family, with only one exception, Mr. Speaker Trumbull, who had been confidential secretary to the Chief during the war of the Revolution."—(*G. W. P. Custis' Recollections.*)

During the war he not unfrequently rode ten or twelve miles from camp to attend public worship, and he never omitted this attendance when opportunity presented.

It is exceedingly interesting to look over the many army orders touching the observance of the Sabbath all along the course of the war, and the various appointments for other religious services, thanksgiving for victories, all of which have the ring of true and sincere trust and dependence in God.

I quote an extract from another order (May 2d, 1778): "The Commander-in-Chief directs that divine service be performed every Sunday at 11 o'clock, in those Brigades to which there are Chaplains—those which have none to attend the places of worship nearest to them—it is expected that officers of all ranks will by their attendance set an example to their men. * * *"

The appointment of the day following the surrender at Yorktown as a day of praise and the appointment of Chaplain in Federal Congress and the incidents connected with it are most interesting and show the substantial religious character and devout spirit of Washington.

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports, etc." (He admonished the people that unless morality was rooted in religious principle it could not live long.)—*William Linn, D. D., Feb. 22, 1800, New York.*

He was a sincere believer in the Christian faith, and a truly devout man—*Chief Justice Marshall.*

He was Christian in faith and practice, and he was habitually devout.—*Sparks.*

He is known, as a general rule, to have spent an hour every morning and evening in reading the Bible and in private meditation and prayer.—*Slaughter*.

"He gave the proceeds of several farms to the homeless. He established a school of charity in Alexandria. He gave \$10,000 to what is now Washington and Lee University."—*See Dr. Slaughter*.

"He had the largest private library on the continent. He left 900 volumes in his library when he died, and not a work of fiction among them. Washington was probably the best scholar on the continent at that time in English history, literature and politics. * * With his large reading of history, especially English history, he understood better the great government problems than any other man on the American continent, with the possible exception of Benjamin Franklin."—*E. W. Chafin*.

"To his military career, take it all in all, its long duration, its slender means, its vast theatre, its glorious aims and ends and results, there is no parallel in history."—*Robert C. Winthrop*.

Letter to Mrs. Custis:

FROM FORT CUMBERLAND.

"We have begun our march for the Ohio. A courier is starting for Williamsburg, and I embrace the opportunity to send a few words to one whose life is now inseparable from mine. Since that happy hour when we made our pledges to each other, my thoughts have been going continually to you as to another self. That an all powerful Providence may keep us both in safety is the prayer of your ever faithful and

"Ever affectionate friend,

"G. WASHINGTON."

"20th of July, Mrs. Martha Custis."

"Lest some unlucky event should happen unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room, that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with."—*Washington (on being chosen Commander-in-Chief.)*

Letter to Mrs. Washington after appointment as Commander:

PHILADELPHIA, 18 June, 1775.

"* * * So far from seeking this appointment, I have used every endeavor in my power to avoid it, not only from my unwillingness to part with you and the family, but from a consciousness of its being a

trust too great for my capacity, and that I should enjoy more real happiness in one month with you at home, than I have the most distant prospect of finding abroad, if my stay were to be seven times seven years. But as it has been a kind of destiny, that has thrown me upon this service, I shall hope that my undertaking is designed to answer some good purpose."

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Delegates in Virginia:

"The sole motive, which invites me to the field, is the laudable desire of serving my country, and not the gratification of any ambitious or lucrative plans."

Statement of Indian Chief:

"* * * Quick, let your aim be certain and he dies. Our rifles were leveled, rifles which but for him knew not how to miss—'twas all in vain, a power mightier far than we shielded him from harm. He cannot die in battle."

From sermon, Rev. Samuel Davies, later president of Princeton College, in August to a company from Hanover county:

"That heroic youth, Colonel Washington, whom I cannot but hope Providence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner for some important service to his country."

"The character of Washington possesses fewer inequalities and a rarer union of virtues than perhaps ever fell to the lot of one man."—*Washington Irving*.

"Washington is a work of the Almighty Artist, which none can study without receiving purer ideas and most lofty conceptions of the grace and beauty of the human character."—*James Kirk Paulding (New York)*.

"The voice of praise could not betray him into rashness, nor the malignant tongues of slander warp him from his duty."—*Frederick Frelinghuzen, Major-General New Jersey (1800)*.

"Then I trembled for my country, no other man could have saved it."—*General Benjamin Lincoln*.

"His strength was in himself, and he moved the world by the power of his character."—*Bishop Thomas M. Clark, D. D. (Rhode Island)*.

"Washington invested everything he touched with a kind of sacredness."—*Dr. von Holst (Germany)*.

"His public letters and documents should be engraven on the tablets of the nation."—*John Mason Williams (Massachusetts.)*

"Though as intrepid as Hannibal, and fortunate as Cæsar; yet mildness and humanity were prominent traits in his character; he never pierced a fallen foe."—*Capt. Joseph Dunham (1800).*

"No one ever passed through the ordeal of power and influence more free from the remotest suspicion of selfish and ambitious designs."—*British Register.*

"He laid down all authority—the supreme power—to hide his glory in the obscurity of private life."—*Felix Foulcon (France, 1800.)*

"If virtue can secure happiness in another world, he is happy. In this, the seal is now put upon his glory. It is no longer in jeopardy from the fickleness of fortune."—*Alexander Hamilton (New York).*

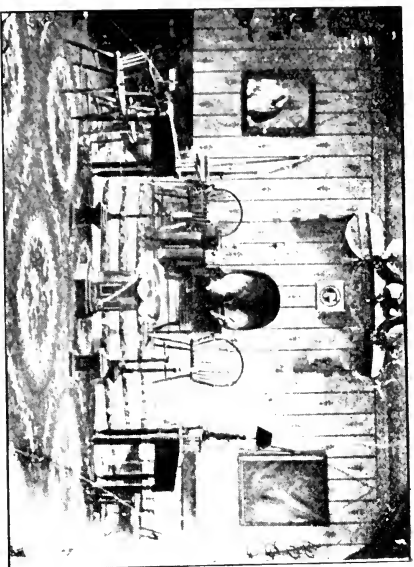
Washington was a Mason. He was first initiated into the Masonic order November 4th, 1752, before he was twenty-one years of age. In 1777 he was nominated for Grand Master, but declined. In 1788 he was elected the first Master of the newly instituted lodge in Alexandria.

"So far as I am acquainted with the principles of Freemasonry, I conceive them to be founded on benevolence, and to be exercised only for the good of mankind."—*George Washington (1798).*

"I will frankly declare to you, my dear Doctor. * * I had rather glide gently down the stream of life, leaving it to posterity to think and say what they please of me, than by any act of mine to have vanity or ostentation imputed to me. * * I do not think vanity is a trait of my character."—*Washington (H-d, 290).*

"All see and most admire, the glare which hovers around the external happiness of elevated office. To me there is nothing in it beyond the lustre, which may be reflected from its connection with a power of promoting human felicity."—*Washington (H-322)*

"When I had judged, upon the best appreciation I was able to form of the circumstances which related to myself, that it was my duty to embark again on the tempestuous and uncertain ocean of public life, I gave up all expectations of private happiness in this world."—*Washington (H-322).*



Alexandria Lodge, A. F. A. M., No. 22.



Washington the First Master.



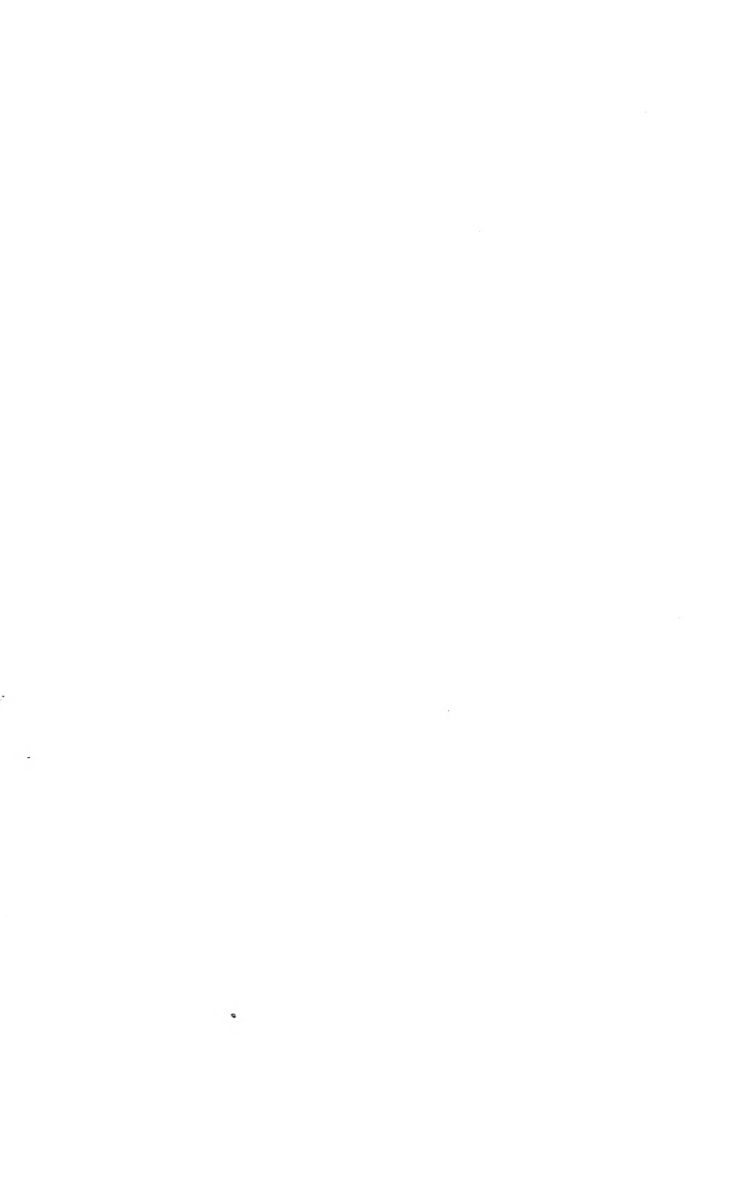
"Certain I am, whenever I shall be convinced the good of my country requires my reputation to be put in risk, regard for my own fame will not come in competition with an object of so much magnitude."—*(To Henry Lee.)*

The following extract of a letter written to Washington in 1756, by one John Armstrong, concerning a custom, then, almost universal, is suggestive, when taken in connection with subsequent army orders, already noted, letters written by Washington to friends and other documents: "But here permit a single remark flowing from old friendship, and it shall be on the infatuating game of card-playing, of which on thirty years' observation I am not able to say so much good as a witty person once did of what he censured as culpable and extravagant piece of dress, 'that it covered a multitude of sins'; but that game, always unfriendly to society, turns conversation out of doors, and curtails our opportunities to mutual good. I can easily presume on your good nature to forgive this piece of unfashionable freedom."

"Be courteous to all, but intimate with few; and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation. * * Do not conceive that fine clothes make fine men, any more than fine feathers make fine birds. A plain genteel dress is more admired, and obtains more credit, than lace and embroidery, in the eyes of the judicious and sensible. * * The last thing which I shall mention, is first in importance; and that is *to avoid gaming*. * * It is the child of avarice, the brother of iniquity, and father of mischief. It has been the ruin of many worthy families, the loss of many a man's honor, and the cause of suicide.—Washington *(Letter to his nephew, January, 1783.)*

"*Doctor, I die hard, but I am not afraid to go. * * I feel myself going (I thank you for your attention); you had better not take any more trouble about me; but let me go off quietly. I cannot last long.*"—WASHINGTON *(December 14, 1799.)*

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